Folder 6: Randall, Orso Wilbur (Palmer) 1941-1944

Sitka, Alaska
September 15, 1941
AIR MAIL

Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Reserve, New Mexico

Dear Wilber:

I wrote to you from Cordova after receiving your wire that was sent to Anchorage. I am glad that you are in a position to go to Palmer. You are going to find it a most challenging field.

In regard to the information you have requested about the house furnishings, etc., I suggest you write Reverend B. J. Bingle, Palmer, Alaska, for detailed information.

I do not know for sure who will succeed you on your present field.

Cordially yours,

Everett B. King

EBK:kh

Presbyterian Sunday School Missions

Reserve, N. M.
July 24, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

A few days ago I received a letter from Dr. Henry B. Strock, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, Pensylvania. He was on his vacation at the time, and could not take up the proposition of transferring my support to Alaska with his session; but he said he was of the opinion that the session would concur with him that it would be a good move. He feels the same as you said you felt, that the minister of that church at Palmer would have hand in forming the future of that country.

We have definitely decided that we want to go up there if the proposition is still open. We have been watching the sleeping sickness and polomolitis in western Canada and wondering if it might extend into Alaska, but I guess it might extend to New Mexico if it is a general epidemic; therefore we will depend on the Lord to care for us in whatever place he calls us to serve.

I am asking that this be forwarded to you so that you can send us a little more information concerning house furnishings, if the manse is modern (water and lights), and some pictures of Palmer church and manse. You may make your plans regarding our taking over that work effective ~~November~~ October 1st, and we will try to be there if you can arrange the move that suddenly.

Dr. Strock also wrote Ralph that he thought the move could be arranged as soon as he meets with his session. If we can proceed with the plans and depend on his selling the move to his church - lets go.

If you could give me the name of the man who is to succeed me on this field, I could give him considerable help by writing letters of introduction to the Sunday Schools and a letter to him regarding the work now being done. Champlin left nothing for me and I could have used some such help. I hope this meets with your approval.

Cordially yours,
O. Wilber Randall
O. Wilber Randall

Copy to:
Rev. Ralph J. Hall, D. D.

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156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
SYNODS OF THE WEST

RALPH J. HALL
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
FOR UNIT OF
SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONS
1022 FORRESTER AVE.
ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

Albuquerque, N. M.
September 17, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

We are all ready and anxious to get to Alaska, but there has arisen a difficulty that makesit impossible for me to get going. The negro in the wood pile is the financing of my car. I can not find anyone here, finance company or banker who would let me take the car to Alaska. I had a heater and set of tires put on it and raised the amount against it so that it will be financed on a $700.00 note, and no one here will let me take the car toAdaska with anything against it. I have talked the matter over with Dr. Hall and he does not know of a solution. He offered his name on a note, but the bank will not make a loan that large on a note.

I have tried vainly all day to find a financeer who would go along, but they can not see Alaska. I am at a stalemate to go any further.

I have already arranged to take my furniture to Claunch, and have towels, bedding, dishes, and clothes packed to ship up to Alaska; but have had no word regarding sailing dates. We will almoat have to have the car shipped on the same boat we take so we can take things along for the baby. She can not travel as light as an adult, and we almost have to have that shipping arrangement to make the trip.

One other item: I shall have to ask for at least $100.00 to getup thete on if the advance can be made. This Move to Alaska is just about to get all my enthusiasm - so much uncertainty about getting a boat, getting this car refinanced, etc.

We are taking the things out to Claunch on Saturday, Sept. 20; and I shall be ready to go when I have word from you. I shall call the last ten days of the month vacation and use it to go to Alaska.

What do you think we can do about these problems?

Cordially yours,
C. Wilder Randall

P. S. Miss Wolf:
If you can make any suggestions I would be glad to get a letter by return airmail to Claunch, N. M.

Please send all mail to Claunch, N. M.

Presbyterian Sunday School Missions

Reserve, N. M.
September 18, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Yesterday I was in Albuquerque to officiate at a funeral and while there I tried to find a way of financing my car so that I could take it to Alaska. I found nothing there, and after talking the matter over with Ralph I wrote telling you the whole problem.

Today we received, by registered airmail, the tickets and reservations for our sailing on October 2nd. We feel a lot more like we are on our way, and eventho we still have the car financing problem we are making plans to be in Seattle on the first of October to be sure to get our boat to Alaska. We have moved the starting date up to Friday, 19th when we move our things to Claunch, and leave there Monday 21st. We plan to take the later half of the month for my vacation and go out to Los Angeles and up the coast to Seattle.

After we leave Albuquerque Monday 21st we will be on our way. I shall stop off at the Seattle office and get my check for the month. I am sure it will be possible to recieve it there at that time.

One final request: use all your influence to have our car go on the same boat with us to Seward. I am asking that you advance me one hundred dollars, and if I need more I shall let you know in time to send it to Seattle in care of Dr. Thomson .

Faithfully yours,
O. Wilbur Randall

P. S. Miss Wolf we thank you for your good wishes and the tickets, we hope you may come to visit us in Alaska.

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Seattle, Wash.
Aboard S.S. Aleutian
Oct. 8, 1941

Dr. Everett D. King:
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

We are stuck in Seattle - because of a strike in the Kitchen of the "Aleutian". We failed to ship out on yesterday morning and sailing is now held up indefinately.

We have used up all the expense money and all but $12.00 of

insured funds. That looks bad for us going into a new field in the middle of a month.

Would it be possible for us to draw $100.00 advance salary. Otherwise we might not eat until the end of the month. It would be good if you could send it to me at Palmer, Alaska, by Air Mail so it will be there when we are there.

I could not get the car on this boat. It comes the 14th on the "Alaska" and we are going on to Palmer by train. When the car reaches Anchorage I shall return for it.

We surely anxious to get up there and back to work. The crew is settling down — we may sail today.

I shall make out my itemized account of expense and send it to you as soon as we reach Palmer.

Sincerely yours,
O. Wilder Kendall

October 21, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. W. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I hope that you have safely landed in Matanuska Valley and that you have not been disappointed in what you have found. You certainly have had difficulty in arriving. I hope that the difficulty was a good omen and that you are now finding the inspiration and the challenge that is there.

In regard to your car, I think it would be fair for the Board to assume $232.40 of the amount that was advanced to you early in September. That will leave a balance of $400.for you to repay. If you have no objection we will deduct $12.50 from your monthly check to repay this $400. This will have to be extended over a period of two years unless you find some extra cash and are able to make an additional payment. I do not feel like asking you to make a payment of any more than $12.50, due to the high cost of living there in Alaska. Give my love to the family,

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Palmer, Alaska
October 23, 1941

Dr. Everett D. King
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

We arrived in Palmer two days ago but have not got my car and some of our hand luggage.

Our freight was to have been paid through at Seattle but Mr. Hamill probably missed it. All we shipped came through to Palmer and the inclosed invoice shows it cost $143.36. We were stuck but the Doctor, chairman of Council, paid the freight to get our freight for us.

Fuel is almost impossible to find and the price we will have to pay is heart breaking. Trouble is caused by Army demand. Coal can not be had and wood is $18.00 cord. It takes two to three cords per month to heat the house.

Because of that item I am going to need a little allowance if it is at all possible after I have cost the Board so much the last few weeks. I could make out on $100.00 advance if it is possible to get that.

Shall have a check drawn to repay the doctor. Make the check to me and I shall endorse it to him. Will send expense account tomorrow. Sincerely, O. Wilson Randall

November 3, 1941

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

Enclosed you will find a check for $143.36 to cover the freight bill that was paid by Dr. Albrecht. Please express our appreciation to Dr. Albrecht for this courtesty. I am sorry that things did not go right and that this bill was presented on your arrival in Palmer but it has worked out all right.

I note what you say about the salary advance but I am sorry that we are not in a position to extend another advance to you. You will easily appreciate why the Board is not in such a position, When you review the expense that has been involved both as Sunday School Missionary and on this trip to Alaska. I thoroughly sympathize with you on the high price of fuel but have absolute confidence in you to the point that I believe you will provide somewhere, someway the means to overcome this difficulty. I do not want you to feel that I am trying to make it hard for you to operate in Alaska. After you have thought through the whole matter I believe you will agree that our refusal of the advance is the only answer that could be made.

Please let me know how your work goes along and send me a good descriptive story of your own personal reaction to the field.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE
Enc.

ALASKA

Palmer, Alaska
November 4, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, City

Dear Dr. King:

When I reached Seattle I was instructed by Rev. Mr. Howell to bring a certain light fixture design up here for the approval of the Council or the Doctor, and if it was satisfactory I was to send it back to him at once to get the lights for the Church here at Palmer.

I brought the picture and the price quoted by the Wagoner Lighting Studio. When I showed it to the Doctor there was more talk. Dr. Albrecht informed me that he and his wife had long wanted to provide the lights for the church, and at one time you and he had talked about some friend of yours in Texas who made wrought iron lights to order. The matter was never settled but seemed to be left hanging that Dr. Albrecht pay for the material and you would get the lights made. That was last year from what I gather.

This year you brought up the subject of lights and the Dr. asked if you might talk that matter over later, and you got out of the valley before he got to see you again. He asked the Council to consider the matter and I was instructed to have more correspondance with you regarding the lights.

Dr. Albrecht would like to pay for the lights, but since he has been drafted as a reserve doctor in the United States Army he is not able to do so now. At least he is not able to meet the price quoted ny Mr. Wagner. I think that he might give $60.00 or 75.00 on the lights, but I could not give him a final answer until I had word from you. Mr. Howell did not make it clear that the Board was buying the lights outright. He did say that you were paying for the lights if the Dr. approved of them, and that raised the question - were you depending on the Doctor to pay by a contribution to the Board?

These lights were satisfactory to the Council members, but Dr. Albrecht thought they were a little higher than we should pay. He has resigned as Chairman of the Council however to go to Fort Richardson the first of December, and the other members might approve the lights. They all think that the local Church should pay for them, but they havent the money since having to buy wood, and having bought the new manse stove.

I shall inclose the Wagner design and quotation. Return them with your reply. What was your proposition, and is it altered in the light of information at hand?

Sincerely yours,
Wilbur Randall
Wilbur Randall

Presbyterian Sunday School Missions

Palmer, Alaska
November 4, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Now that I have been in Palmer long enough to begin to get acquainted and see around a little I wish to express my impression thus far. Personally I believe it is the greatest challenge that I have ever seen given to a man, and I know no place in the world where the people seem to be a superior type of individuals generally. The equipment with which to carry the proposed program of the Kingdom of God is unequalled by anything I have seen.

Monia and I feel that it is truly the Lord's guidence that caused you to invite us to take this place. We both feel fine physically at this lower altitude, and the physical surroundings make us totally happy. The people here have shown their fine spirit of appreciation for their church and pastor by trying to do a favor for us. The favor was the purchase and installation of a new flamo-gas kitchen range in the manse in place of the burnt-out coal-wood stove that smoked up the place.

When we arrived the freight we had sent through came collect and Dr. Albrecht saw our need and readily advanced a check to get our freight for us. You have already had the freight bill and request to send a check to cover that freight shipment. Other needs of ourselves and the church have been readily cared for by the Council members.

We did not ship any of the furniture except radio, rugs, and cleaner. We find that Washing machines are from $75.00 up in price here, and the only one we could get without having to await a new shipment would cost $87.50. The Freight agent assures me that we could have our machine shipped up here for about $15.00, so we have written to Claunch to have The Ethridges ship our machine to us. We have cost the Board too much getting here so I shall take care of this freight item.

I do not know how to thank you for the proposition on the car. I am sorry that I got so far in debt for automobiles this year, but I could not prevent it. I shall be able to handle the small amount you suggested ($12.50) per month at present, and might be able to retire some of the amount by Christmas check. In any event, I should be able to let you take twice that amount out of my check in six or eight months from how.

We had 35 in Sunday School, 50 in Church, 14 at Christian Endeavor. There is a terrible lack in Devotion and Spiritual life manifested here. We will need your prayers to help us. Your discription was very conservative - the need understated.

Faithfully yours,

Wilber Randall

Wilber Randall

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Rev. Rhea Kuykendall, 1100 Santa Rita St., Silver City
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Rev. O. Wilber Randall, Box 193, Reserve

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Rev. J. N. Carnine, Laramie
Rev. C. L. Morton, 1227 So. Oak St., Casper

Presbyterian Sunday School Missions

Palmer, Alaska
November 4, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Our mail service has been terrible for the last few weeks, and just today I got a whole stack of mail that had been held up by flying conditions. Your letter in the bunch. I was happy to have the letter of encouragement and the good news regarding the car financing. $250 on car is O.K. maybe more a little later - possibly a Christmas check [redacted] car.

Possibly you have had my other mail by now and know the near tragedies we had on the way up. I shall recount the trip, include the itemized expense account and rush to you air mail. I think it is about time. Also will fill out a report blank for last month for your files.

Way back in September we started to Alaska - years ago it seems. September 20th we moved our furniture to Claunch to store it. September 22 sent my freight to Mountainair for shipment, and had to go in the 23 to ship it because muddy roads prevented the trucks getting in on time the 22nd to ship the boxes. September 24 we spent in Albuquerque awaiting check and moving orders. September 24 still in Albuquerque. September 25 to 27 spent on way to Los Angeles. September 28 to October 3rd in Los Angeles. October 3rd to 6th en route to Seattle. October 7 and 8th spent in Seattle "strikebound". October 9 and 10th to Ketchekan. There for five days.

We got to Ketchikan and were told of a severe storm on the Gulf of Alaska, and asked if we would like to await the next boat. We stayed over those days with James and Ruth until the next boat. Still hit the storm and were all severely ill for two days as the top deck dipped heavy seas.

Arrived in Seward at 3:30 October 21st, and got a train to Anchorage at 5:30 for Anchorage. Was met by Bingle and Cubbage and put in the Anchorage hotel for the night. We came to Palmer with Bingles October 22. Spent the next three days getting B. J. and family shipped to Fairbanks.

We had left a lot of the personal things in the car because we were assured at Seward that it would be up the next day. They meant next week maybe. I went into Anchorage on the 25th to get the car. "Excuse error please, the car is still in Seward" the Railroad claimed. Returned home and had the first service in Palmer October 26th. Had a Council meeting on 27th and the 28th I went and got my car, which had finally arrived in Anchorage. Used the tickets from Anchorage to Palmer which Howell had bought in Seattle, and another ticket going in for the car. Included is itemized expense of trip.

Cordially yours,

Wilber Randall

Wilber Randall

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Rev. John E. Yovel, Fairbanks

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Rev. J. N. Carnine, Laramie
Rev. C. L. Morton, 1227 So. Oak St., Casper

TO BE USED EVERY MONTH, and enclosed with the Monthly Report to Everett B. King, Secretary for Sunday School Missions

SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY REPORT

Of_____ Sunday School Missionary

Date_____

Note—This Supplement is furnished for the purpose of giving the Missionary an opportunity of reporting special work performed during the month, for which adequate space is not provided on the regular Monthly Report blank. It should be used also, to give information concerning the conditions of the field; the progress of the Community schools under the Missionary's care and any interesting incidents or experiences in connection with the month's work. Write on both sides.

Itemised Expenses of trip to Alaska. Randall Family:-

September 20 -	Car expenses to Claunch -	$ 4.60	Total - 4.60
September 22 -	Trucking boxes to Railroad	7.50	" 7.50
September 23 -	Car expenses to ship same	2.07	" 2.07
September 24 -	Car expense to Albuaueraue	2.04	" 2.04
September 25 -	Gasoline $1.00, Cabin rent	2.00	" 3.20
September 26 -	Grants to Prescott, Arizona, Gas and Oil 5.60		
	Meals- Lunch 1.10, dinner 1.00 , Cabin rent 2.00,		Total 9.70
September 27 -	Prescott to Los Angeles		
	Gasoline and oil - 4.83, Breakfast .80, Lunch 1.20		" 6.93
September 28 to October 3rd in Los Angeles.			
October 3rd -	Los Angeles to Madero California-		
	Oil change 1.80, Gasoline 4.15, Breakfast 1.00,		
	Lunch 1.05, Dinner 1.00, Cabin rent 2.50 in Madero		11.50
October 4th-	Madero to Garberville,		
	Gasoline 1.82, 279, 1.05, Golden Gate Bridge toll .50		
	Breakfast.60, Lunch 1.00, Dinner 1.10, Cabin rent 2.00		-9.86
October 5th-	Garberville, California to Vancover, Oregon-		
	Gasoline 7.40, Cabin rent 3.00, Breakfast .80,		
	Lunch 1.30, Dinner 1.20		13.70
October 6th	Vancover to Seattle-		
	Gasoline 2.37, Lubrivation and anti-freeze 8.60		
	Breakfast.60, Lunch 1.00, Dinner 1.20, Cabin 3.00		16.77
October 7th	Went on Ship but had to eat ashore because of Stewards strike which held up boat for 36 hours. Lunch and Dinner		2.40
October 8th "Strikebound"	Breakfast and Lunch		2.30
October 21st -	Hotel in Anchorage		5.00
October 25th -	Trip to Anchorage for car		5.40
October 28th -	Trip to Anchorage for car		2.50
			$105.47

Total Expenses Reserve to Palmer

Refund on Tickets from Palmer to Anchorage $5.40

leaving the total expense of $100.07 for the trip

O. Wilder Randall

Box 235
Palmer, Alaska
November 5, 1941

Dear Dr. King:

I recieved your letter & vacation Bible School blanks yesterday and am sending them right back with the information regarding the V.B.S. held on my field in New Mexico. Sorry I did not get this information in before I left New Mexico but there just didn't seem to be enough time.

I mentioned in a letter last week that I had sent the freight bill on our personal effects. With the

freight bill there was a request for a Board check to cover it. The freight was marked paid because Dr. C. E. Albrect had kindly given his personal check so that we might have our things immediately. I had assured the Board was paying that freight + now I feel rather put out embarrassed that 15 days have passed + I have not been able to return his money.

The Dr. is drafted to go to Ft. Richardson Dec. 1 and I should like to return his money before he leaves if possible. His check was for $14 3.34.

Cordially yours,
O. Hilbert Kendall

P. S. Monica is writing for me because I am trying a rest cure for a severe cold.

November 25, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

According to your itemized expense account to Alaska we now owe you seven cents. You can mark that down in your little book and some of these days we will pay it back with interest.

I am glad to get your first reaction to the great opportunities that you see for service there in the Matanuska Valley. I believe that you have a real opportunity. I almost envy you.

In regard to the lights - I understood that Dr. Albrecht was to install the lights in the church. I was simply acting as his agent here in this part of the world, trying to find something that would be suitable. When I discovered that it would be prohibitive to have them made due to the high cost of materials and so forth, I began looking around and through Howell found these lights or fixtures already made up. If Dr. Albrecht feels that this is more money than he would like to invest in the fixtures, my suggestion is that we simply delay the matter of installation. I do not feel that the Board is in a position to install the fixtures at this time.

I do not care to have you pay for the $15. freight bill on shipping your washing machine so that if you will send that bill to me, I will return it with a check from the Board.

I have some very definite ideas about your program there in the Valley. It seems to me that there are a few things at least that you need to keep uppermost in your mind as you begin building your program for the Palmer Church. I am going to list these items that stand out so clearly before me and I would like you to study each one carefully and then write me your reactions. Here are the suggested highlights for your program there:

1. Much time should be given to home visitation. I feel that there is a real need for you to go into these homes as a minister, which will mean that you will go wearing your coat and collar and tie and that you will leave in each home a feeling that a minister of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has been present.

2. The church needs to be organized and the organizations need to function. You will, therefore, have to carry your plans through the various organizations, counselling with them and working through them. It seems to me that one big need in the Matanuska Church is for more lay leadership. You cannot do the whole job yourself and the only way that you can be helped is by training new leaders. Therefore, I say you must give careful attention to organization.

5. You must not neglect your preparation for the pulpit. Your church now needs a strong message every Sunday from the pulpit. You have the ability and the people the need, so let me urge you to give the very best you have in your sermonizing.

4. Your people need cultivating and training in stewardship. The more that you can create the spirit of giving among the people, the greater they will be attached to the church and to the Lord. Real giving comes out of systematic study and prayerful cultivation. This, of course, goes back to the matter of working out a program for the field.

5. You will clear all your plans and programs through the Council, taking them into your confidence and making them feel that they have a definite part in the workings of the church.

6. I think your manse should be used as a center for Young People's activities; such as, group studies and so forth. You have a splendid opportunity of making a great impression upon the young people in the Valley.

Of course, you will find other things to emphasize but it seems to me that these six suggested lights are the ones that you need to keep burning brightly.

Give my love to Monia and be sure of the fact that we are remembering you in prayer.

Cordially yours,

FBK:McE
Enc. 2 estimate and design for lighting fixtures

Palmer, Alaska
December 16, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, City

Dear Dr. King:

This month has been spent trying to have things worked into a schedule. I have endeavored to start a Bible Study Class and Prayer Meeting, but they have not met with a lot of success due to the extended severe cold weather that we have had here in the valley since my arrival. Mr. Don Irwin, one of our elders, says that this cold spell is the most severe cold and the longest continued spell of weather he has ever seen in the seven years in the valley.

You will note from the report that I have listed every thing under Palmer. Since I am working here and the little side trips to Wasilla and the Independence mine are in the territory I shall make no special notation of them. The trip to the mine was to take B. J. Bingle for some visitation, I have not attempted to make the trip since that time because of the snow. It was about three feet deep there when we went up, and they have had more which has not melted any. The road was open in a fashion so that you could get through if you had good chains and a lot of determination.

In Wasilla we have a few faithfyl members who come quite regularly to Palmer to Church services in spite of the fifteen miles of crooked roads covered with glare-ice. We are proud of those from Wasilla who come in so far when some in the very shadow of the church do not venture out very often because of the ice and sub zero temperatures. It has gone as low as -28* since we have been here, and that is not very much palm tree and orange grove weather.

This month I went to Ecleutha for the fourth Sunday service and preached to the children at about 4:00 P. M. so that I could reach Anchorage in time to participate in the dedication of our new church there. The heating system was not working too well and the room iin which we had services was just freezing 32*above. The native children there wear native garb, and they all kept on their"parkes"during the service. I preached in overcoat and gloves.

Our young people meet two Sundays per month for Christian Endeavor services. We are slowly gaining more of them to the Christian Idea of the meeting. It seemed to be a generally accepted business and social meeting when we came.

The declaration of War has brought defense, red cross, and a hundred other kind of meetings; and things are terribly busy here. We are fighying for a Christmas service, but looks almost hopeless.

Faithfully yours,
C. Wilbur Randall

Have discontinued Bible classes, and Prayer meeting due to bad weather, Epidemic meeting 3 villages, etc.

Palmer, Alaska
January 15, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of A laskan Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

This report sees some progress and some retreat. First the progress in overcoming obsticles to a Christmas Program. We had a program in Sunday School, Sunday prior to Christmas, then our Christmas message in the Worship period. In the evening we had the Christmas Pagent of the story in Luke's Gospel, done by the young married people of the church. They acted out the parts and used the lines from the Weymouth modern language Testament. We had a Carol, announcements and offering following an opening prayer. Then the costumed actors came on the stage and we had the Christmas pagent infromt of a perfect nativity scene.

We moved the Choir stand back into the corner at one end and let it stand at an anble across toward the door on the other side of the stage. We had a real baby in a cradle (and the baby cried at first, but soon fell asleep) a camel cut out of celetex wall board, bundles of fodder, a live goat, and above that scene a beautiful star about fourteen inches across. After the pagent the character playing Mary went and sat by the cradle and baby.

At the close of the pagent we had candles, passed in silence, by the Christian Endeavor group, and lighted by two of the group. The light started at the front of the church and spread like a growing wedge of light as it passed from the end of the pew to the next person. As the candels at the end was lighted, those on the end turned and gave light to the one beside him until all were holding lighted candles. The church was lighted with candles, and those polished logs gave a wonderful manger setting. While the group held the lighted candles the Choir lead in the singing of Carols. At the conclusion of the service there was no benediction but the choir continued singing softly the Carol "Silent Night" as the entire church was emptied in silence. It was good to see the fulfillment of that promise of God "Let all the earth keep silence." The true Christmas spirit was born in the silence following the pagent and caroling as the group whispered "Good Night" at the door.

The first Sunday of the new year we had our New Years Communion. One young man, the University Extension Service Agent, came into the fellowship as a full member. Also we baptised the infant son of Elder Jospeh Chandler and wife, of Eclcutna. Almost everyone took communion, and we had the lar est attendance since my coming.

Second Sunday of the month we had our regular annual congregational meeting and elected officers for the year. We had a fellowship dinner at the church, and the reports of each group organized in the church was given and approved. The church would not have been in the red financially if it had not been for a total rewiring of the manse. The wiring was condemned by the R.E.A. underwriters inspection. We were less than $100 in the red.

Sincerely yours,
O. Wilbur Randall

January 27, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I was very glad to receive both of your letters dated December 16th and January 15th. So you do not think the weather there would be conducive to palm tress or orange groves. I suspect you are about right.

I was very glad to note the encouraging spirit that you give in your letters. I feel that you have a real opportunity there in Palmer. I hope the cold weather is not effecting you or your family in any negative way. Please give my regards to my friends there.

Cordially yours,

EBK:MoE

Palmer, Alaska
February 6, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Two days ago I returned to Palmer after spending a very pleasant week in Fairbanks at Presbytery Meeting. My pulpit was filled by Lieutenant Demot, Chaplain from Fort Richardson, on the Sunday I was away. Attendance would not bear record of a very healthy condition here so far as church is concerned. We had several ill with colds, and several absent because it was the Sunday after the all-night brall known as the Presidents Ball. Everyone goes to everything here except church, and a good number comes to church.

We had a very good Presbytery meeting, and the business was handled in an orderly and friendly manner. Every item of the meetings business was considered and acted upon, but the present Chairman of National Missions committee could not see the relinquishment of present policies to make the Fairbanks pastor responsible for the contact between New York and here, until a compromise was worked out and said pastor was made one of the members of National Missions committee members, with power to act in case of an emergency such as bomb raid or envasion. I can not understand why some people are always so careful about losing some of their importance. I seem to recall words of the Master which go this way "Blessed are the meek... He that humbleth himself shall be exhaulted... etc."

I am grateful to our Alaska Sunday School Missionary for his kindness in giving me fifty of the Scripture text Calendars that you had sent to him. The people here are using them as they did out in New Mexico. That is what they are promising to do, and I am happy to have them promise to live up to one verse of Scripture per day. I am a little afraid that they were bait, since he has no car here and can call on me to take him up to the mines, etc. I am almost forced to do that very kind act for him, but it is at my expense-with no travel allowance-to save face here in the field.

It seems that Alaska is a territory run on a set of nerves. Every slight remark is magnified until it is a story, and every act is interpreted as having an unannounced meaning. There was a rather systematic job of throat cutting done here before I came. Due to boat delays and other things I was painted as the Board's fair haired boy who did not care particularly about the people in the valley - just sent up by the Board so that I could take a job which would prove far too large for me. Too many friends of the former pastor are in the territory here about Palmer, and his trips through here to the outlying points offer a grand time for a little unfinished pastoral work, such as the baptising of an infant in a home last time he was down here. Is that entirely fair?

Cordially yours,

Wilder

P.S. Thanks for the "Spiritual Diary" it is a gem in our home.

Palmer, Alaska
February 7, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I just learned that there was no train, after having written yesterday; therefore I shall just send later developments from Palmer and the valley. I mentioned a need for fuel earlier in my term of service here, got the encouragement that we were to make out. We have made out so far but the fuel question is a very great consideration in the Alaska budget. We have used ten cords of wood in the manse and about sixteen in the church so far.

The church here had no janitor, and since common labor is worth ninety cents to one dollar and a half per hour it has fallen my lot to do the fire keeping in both manse and church. I can heartily sympathize with the former pastor here in the janitor responsibility. I had not handled that much wood in the last five years put together. We got a break on the church wood and got twenty cords cut by the Army before the war. I got two cords of that wood delivered for $6.00 per cord, but have paid plenty more for the other eight cords I have used and will have to pay more still for wood to run the remainder of the winter. That is only one of the things in the territory that is much more expensive than things outside. Our representative in Washington just made a very true statement the other day in the capital city. Representative Tony Diamond offered the figures to show that it costs from 35% to 100 per cent more to live in Alaska than to live in Washington, the highest city in the states. On top of that slight margian was added the increase of 45 per cent on the freight by the Alaska Steamship Company. That makes $1800.00 here equal to about $1000.00 out in the states, and I thought I was getting a raise by coming to Alaska at that figure. Things here have taken the same material rises as things in the states then added the increase of forty five per cent freight. Just a summary of what it costs to live in Alaska if you need it to give the Board.

Our Sunday School secretary came in with her report for the year just ended. It seems that there is a strange thing here regarding Sunday School attendance. Discontinuing the Busses at the time I came did not help matters at all. This time last year there was a Sunday School attendance of eighty, last month our average for the month was twenty two. We have lost a few of the large families in the evacuation, and others have moved to Anchorage to be with father who works at the army base for the starvation wages of this present boom. I dread the end of it here Our church attendance is as good or better than it was then, according to the present information; but what about the children. We are working to keep Sunday School thriving, but it is very difficult now with so many of the fathers working away and no way for the children to come. Possibly that will change.

I appreciate the six points you gave in a letter to me soon

after I came up here. They are all workable save the one about making the manse headquarters for the Young People. My predecessor had done that, had taken the group on skating and other trips and furnished recreation for them. I started that and found that they need less of that and a little more of the church. They have been trained so that they want to meet twice per month as Christian Endeavor, having a business meeting and a social hour. That had been the practice, meeting in the Manse or in the homes. The good results of it were that they had no program of devotional nature, did not want to go to the church because it would keep some of the group away because they did not want to go to church. We have been gradually altering that process, and trying to teach the young people how to pray. The great reputation as Young Peoples leader here before I came was true, but I believe my thoughts are the same as the pastors at Anchorage and Fairbanks, that the leadership was a recreational popularity and not a spiritual teaching. The claim that this is a superior group is false, they are not even equal to the respective groups in either of the other Alaska churches I have visited. It is not the fault of the children all together, the fault is equally in the home and former Church leadership.

I am not sour on the work here, I love it; but when one works day after day and finds that through pre-arranged prejudice his hands are temporarily tied, he has a right to stop and check up. In the check up I find that we are making some headway, but we are a long way from a regular attendance of 85 to 100 in Church every service. People here tell me that such attendance has not been the average, but the high at Easter or Christmas. Such large numbers came to church when they lived here in tent-town, before houses were built on the tracts; but since the farmers have been on their tracts they have had no such attendance. It seems a little strange to me how some large figures get to the Board offices. My attendance record may not look so good to promotion department, but when you come up next year the people will be here to back up my reports.

There is a rumor, I will not guarantee it because I have not talked with any of the members of the Alaska defense command, that this valley is scheduled to get two landing fields, possibly the auxilary branches of the Elmendorf field of Anchorage base. In that case the Civic Center of Palmer will be evacuated for barraks and facilities for the bases here. That is backed up by the surprising information that the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation holds the title of all land used by the colonists. They may own it while here if they pay for and improve it, the contract calls for just settlement to the colonist should the Corporation deside said colonist incapable of making proper use of said property. No property, even if paid off, can be handed down to children; but reverts to this government agency. Some call it a set up for a larger fortification base prearranged by government management. I think it is just a rumor and pass it on as such to show you how scared these people are in Alaska. The A.R.R.C. holding is fact.

I am sending you some pictures I took for you in New Mexico.

Cordially yours,

Wilbur

P.S. This country does not agree with my family as I had hoped.

Palmer, Alaska
February 12, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Inclosed is an invoice for a General Electric Washing machine which I have bought for the manse at Palmer. We decided it would cost too much to have one bought here after we arrived, and wrote to you stating that our machine had been written for, to be sent from New Mexico.

Harvest delayed immediate shipment of our machine, and when Mr. Ethridge crated the machine and presented it at the Freight Depot in Mountainair, New Mexico, the agent refused to handle it because it was just after war was declared and Washers were at the bottom of the list of "Priorities". The Agent refused to ship the machine on the basis that nothing but food stuff and clothing were far enough up the list of priorities to get shipped.

When I received the letter from Mr. Ethridge, stating that we could not get our machine shipped; I went to the Freight Agent here and asked about said shipment. He told me that only farm machinery and army equipment could be shipped, and Washing Machines were not considered a necessity. That made things look bad for our laundry needs.

We had been taking the laundry out to neighbors machines because laundry prices here are far above a missionaryies income. The situation took on a sinister appearsnce when we knew we could not get our machine. We began looking around for a good buy of a second-hand machine, but the newly released Rural Electrification had caused a run on such markets as well as new machines. The Traiding Post here, The "Co-Op" had no new machines and could not get any more shipped in because of priorities.

Last Thursday the Manager of the Trading Post told me that he was on a trade to get some machines from the Army, machines bought at the Commisary before the evachation of army families. He was getting seven machines and had orders for six of them and asked me if I still needed a Washer. I asked the price and found in in line with other things, then told him of your agreement to buy a machine for the manse. He agreed to let us have the other machine and wait for a check from the Board to pay for it. It is a lot of money to invest in one piece of equipment, but it seemed almost imperative to have one due to Monias health at present. I hope and trust it will still be agreeable for the Board to pay for this machine so I am sending the invoice along to you.

We are having a light epidemic of meningitis, one death and school discontinued at present. other hospitalized cases improving.

Cordially yours,
Wilder

February 24, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. W. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilbor:

Enclosed you will find a check for $89. to pay the bill for the washing machine. I am quite sure that the cost of the new machine is not out of proportion when you consider what it would have cost to have shipped your machine from the States to Palmer.

I read with a great deal of interest the report of February 6th, 7th and 12th. I appreciate the type of leadership that I know you are giving to the Valley. As I told you in person, the need there in the Palmer Church was for a man who would deliver the Gospel from the pulpit and at the same time maintain a spiritual church. I did not go into the details in explaining to you the psoblems that I had in mind but I take it that you have found these problems.

I do hope that the climate will not prove too severe for your family. Of course, if that happens there is no alternative.

If the two landing fields are developed in the Valley I wish you would let me know or let me know just as soon as you know about it.

I still believe that there is a matchless opportunity for spiritual work there at Palmer and I still believe that you are the one to lead in this fine program. Even with the discouraging figures I am sure that your efforts will tell.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Palmer, Alaska
March 3, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your letters of January 23rd. I was indeed happy to hear of the money granted to the National Missions Board on salary adjustments. I appreciate very much the amount allowed me, and the Palmer church has decided to meet your request by raising their present salary to make it an increase of $72,50 for the year.

I have delayed answering your letter until we could have a meeting of the Council of the United Protestant Church here. We had our regular meeting for March, on the first Monday night of the month at regular meeting time, and the council approved the increase in their local budget. Due to the great uncertainty of things here there was a lot of discussion in the meeting before approval of the proposition, and when it was approved it was for the year 1942 only.

The reason for the one year decision was the unsettled times here. One thing of interest came out in the discussion: namely, that in the very near future we shall be sitting on a corner of an auxiliary or sub-post of the Army Air Force here. The autuority for this statement was our United States Commissioner who is one of our council members. He had been in Anchorage that day(March 2nd) talking with one of the members of the Alaska Defense Command, who told him it was a probable early move so that the defense planes could be seperated in more units for greater protection in case of eventual danger. This is all confidential information for you and not to be spread out of the office, but I give it to you to help you see the situation here.

At present the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation is evicting families from the colonists places, such families as have made no effort toward paying for their place. We have about thirty vacant colonists places and another possible twenty will be vacant. We hope they will be retaken by permanent people, but can not guarantee that this valley will not be turned into another fortification base. Certainly a sub-air post will mean landing field, hangers, and pwersonel to man the posst. I shall inclose a couple of letters from the Valley to show you how we are meeting the present times. Dr. Hanson, Manager of the Corporation; and Harry DeLand, our local Postmaster. These letters apeared in the "The Alaska Weekly" published in Seattle, Washington.

Our Sunday School attendance is terribly low because we can not furnish transportation for the children. Some think we should try, others think it is time to let them come in of their own accord. We have lost about fifty children in the public school

and of course that would mean that we would have lost that many from Sunday School. The transportation problem is a tough one here due to high cost of every thing. We could finance the operation of the busses if we could finance the insuring of the children while on the busses. Under a new Territorial law, all commercial carriers must carry liability insurance on the children under the name of "buss insurance". Such insurance would run over $100.00 per year on two buses, and some think we should ask the Board to help us by meeting the insurance while others think we should leave the trasnportation up to the parents of the children. We have been doing that, and our attendance average is little above twenty as compared with the reported eighty or ninety this time last year. I think we should not spend any Board money on such insurance at present, but we should do all that is possible in physical work and prayer to make the group self providing.

We are liking Alaska more every day. The days are back to almost normal days outside, and soon will be much longer than your days. We are hoping and praying that we may have the freedom of continuing our normal work in the Valley and in our Church. We very decidedly miss our good doctor Albrecht, who is now Chief of Surgery, and has the rank of Major, at the Fort Richardson Post at Anchorage. The longer he is away the more I realize that it was a lot more the Doctor who built and directed this church than any other individual, including the former pastor. Such men as Elder Don L. Irwin, and other dependable members have told me that it was Dr. Albrecht that had the Choir; Dr. Albrecht who directed the Sunday School and promoted the bus transportation that made for big attendance; Dr. Albrecht who made special gifts when there was a shortage in the local budget; Dr. Albrecht who was most important figure in the Kings Lake Camp Conference.

Everyone admitts that Rev. Bingle was sincere and hard working, but that it was working on suggestions from Dr. Albrecht that got results. It was not worship of the doctor that portrays itself in such remarks, for with Doc gone I can feel the loss greatly. His Major Rank in the Army does not mean near the income he had here, and as a result we miss his liberal checks in the collection. According to our Presbyterian Chaplains, Lt. Wheeler; and Colonal McBride; the doctor is doing great work as Chief of Surgery, and they very often find him praying with some boy in the hospital. The workof such a Christian must needs be missed here.

I keep hearing from the Reserve field in New Mexico. No missionary yet, do I know why? I hope you can find a man for that field, maybe a Foreign Missionary home for the duration could serve there. Those letters make me feel that I left the flock without a shepherd. If we get evacuated I might consider going back to Reserve - and the Ranchmans Camp Meetings.

Faithfully yours,

O. Wilbur Rundall

Palmer, Alaska
March 5, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avneu
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your letter and the Board Check for the Washing Machine. I received the letter yesterday and was encouraged, you may be sure, by your faith in my ability to handle the situation here. Sometimes the million other things these people can find to do keep them too busy for the church and I do become a little discouraged.

For the Sundays during Lent I am using the words of the Savior as series sermons on: "I am the Way" "I am the Door" "I am the Good Shepherd", etc. We plan to have a Sunrise service at the church in the morning, and at the Eleven O'clock service an Easter Cantata by Choir and Air Corp Male Quartett if we can get the boys, and if not the Choir will have all the service.

Faithfully yours,
Welker Randall

March 13, 1942

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer
Alaska.

Dear Wilber:

Thank you for your interesting letter of March 3d. I was delighted to know that the Palmer Church decided to meet the request by raising your present salary to make it an increase of $72.50 for the year. I am sure you can use that extra amount.

My own personal judgment is that, for the time being at least, it would not be wise for the Board to invest any more money in helping the people to walk there in the valley [illegible] to me that it is wiser to call upon them to assert their own initiative, rather than to do everything for them. You know it is never good for a fellow to be carried when he is able to walk himself. It makes it hard on him and the fellow that is carrying the load.

Of course, your Sunday School will suffer for the time being, but later on it might be able to stand more solidly on its own feet.

I know you must miss Dr. Albrecht. He is one of those choice souls that both nation and church depend heavily upon.

The vacancy in the Reserve Field in New Mexico has been filled by Rev. L. M. Witherspoon. He started his work the middle of last month. I think he is going to do acceptable work. I hope so.

Cordially yours

EBK:HH

Palmer, Alaska
March 17, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

There is little to add to the reports I am sending today. I am doing all that I can to keep our woek here going, and it is doing well so far. Sunday School and Church attendance both are suffering from the lack of transportation and from a little worry on the part of a few here in the Territory. We have lost three more families from the falley by "evacuation" because the bread winner of the family was an employee at the Fort in Anchorage. Simply a precautionary move on the part of the army to evacuate the families of officers and base employees from danger zones.

The families that have gone out were not members, but the children had attended our Sunday School. One of the girls was a senior in our high school and an active member of our Christian Endeavor. There are as many rumors here as in Hawaii, but there is quite evidently no grounds for a lot of them. Nothing further has developed in regard to formerly mentioned sub-bases. The families leaving thus far were some of those who were about ready to leave and this offered an opportunity of free transportation outside.

We are continuing with our plans for Easter services in the church here. I am planning to have our Communion on Palm Sunday, then have an early service on Easter morning followed by coffee and dough-nuts about five to six in the morning. At eleven oclock service to baptise the infants brought, receive members, and have a service of prayer, Scripture and music by the choir.

The country is really beautiful now. The early spring snows have every thing nice and green (meaning the spruce) and every thing ugly is covered with the white blanket of Alaska. The temperature is less inclined to zero zones, and the sunshines now from about seven until seven. We are told that within another month we will have to learn to go to bed with the sun shining. That will be all right with me, and if you come up this year we would like to have you during the long days in the middle of the summer.

Thank you for the increase in the last check. I do not know if we would have been able to get by on the original contract with the increase of expenses of living in Alaska. Things are almost trippled in price since the increase of freight rates. We will be happy to have the new land route opened to Alaska.

B. J. Bingle had the Eklutna Service for me in February.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Randall

P.S. Please notify publication department that our Sunday School literature grant has expired. W.

Palmer, Alaska
March 26, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I am inclosing a letter and proposed budget that we sent out to the members and friends of the United Protestant Church of Palmer. So far I have not checked with the treasurer to see if he has had much response. I have received one pledge card and have hopes of a good response from all to whom the letters and cards were sent.

Our Council is not over confident that we will be able to meet the proposed budget due to the number leaving. We are now beginning to lose the supporting members who are going out to the states. I just got word this morning that we are loosing our high school music teacher. He and his wife have been fine in supporting the church by their money and work. Both were outstanding members of our church choir.

The same day, last week, that the Russian Government renewed the fishing contract with the Japanese, granting them permission to fish in the Bering Sea; the Army sent men out to start work on the sub-base in this area. Permission was also asked for privileges to use certain large vacant buildings as storage space for dismantled equipment for the Army.

The results here in the velley are noticable. More people are talking evacuation; and those who are staying are making concrete plans for self preservation. Long handled shovels and sand buckets for use in case of Insendary bombings are now in most of the public buildings such as the trading-post, depot, hospital, school buildings, etc. The church Council is making plans for such protection of our properties here.

Another evidence of the war has reared its head in the Territory. One that means a considerable amount of sacrifice of former activities. Rationing cards are now in effect making it possible for civilians to get only five galloms of gasoline per week. That is certainly causing noticable less use of cars. We hate to see it that way, but it is just one of those things we must face to fight a war. We are not frightened or discouraged, but about half mad at the Japanese.

When the cry for Chaplains became so shrill a few weeks ago I sent in my name, qualifications, and a statement that I would serve as a Chaplain in the Navy; but I was rejected because of insufficient vision(Poor Eyes). That is very well with me. I did not bother to mention it before since I gave your name

them to write for recommendation. I would have been willing to serve in the Chaplaincy, but I have a contract with you and the Lancaster church. I felt sure that both would grant temporary leave to serve with the armed forces during the emergency, but now that I am not physically fit for the Navy I am not greatly interested. Major Albrecht, Major McQueen, and Major Dees were out here the other evening; and all expressed their confidence that I could pass the Army Chaplaincy requirements. I shall not consider such a move unless things come to the place where the women and children are evacuated from this area to make room for the Army, and that does not look probable at present.

With a small contengent of men up here, our church would be more needed than it is at present. If such a need arises I am thankful that I am here, and can be of service in that way.

I do not know what Cubbage writes of the Anchorage situation in face of continued evacuation. Some are accepting evacuation and taking the next boat or plane back to Anchorage. Major McQueen, said that it would go rather hard with any army wife who appeared at the Base after being evacuated. He did not state what would happen, but his tone was not too favorable. It seems that such women show little patriotism, but were my wife in the same situation she might attempt such return and the consequences.

It is good to know that the Reserve, N. M., field is now supplied. What age man is Mr. Witherspoon, and where did you find him. I do not see his name among the former lists of men serving Sunday School Missions. Is he a married man? is there any information I have that might be of value to him, such as the list of names of those present at the Camp Meeting?

Sorry to have written so much, but it seemed necessary to visit a little today.

Cordially yours,

Wilbur

THE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
Palmer, Alaska

March 20, 1942

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregation:

The Council thanks you for your vital interest in our church program for the past year. Because of cooperation like yours, we face the new fiscal year with confidence.

What a contrast this picture makes with that which prevails today in many lands where freedom of worship as well as many other liberties which we cherish, are wholly or partially "blacked out". We prize religious freedom above all else. In fact, in a recent nation wide poll, over 95 per cent of the people representing the American people considered that their personal liberties would be seriously impaired if people could not worship as they see fit. No other freedom, freedom of speech or to assemble, or freedom of the press, is so important in terms of personal liberties to so many people.

To see religious liberties denied others brings to us a sharper appreciation of its values and importance to each of us. We can not help but be thankful for our liberty. A few years ago a bard said, "Go to church today or to a concentration camp tomorrow". Today we see the world facing that certain fate.

But churches can not exist on appreciation and thankfulness alone. These make an important contribution to the moral strength of the congregation, but by themselves they do not maintain a building and keep it warmed, lighted and ready for service of worship. Neither do they support the worker in pulpit, in the study, at the desk. Nor do they send the Gospel message of peace and freedom to this distracted world.

Only by contribution to the financial support of the church and participating in its activities can appreciation and thankfulness for religious freedom be translated into real accomplishment. The Program and Budget for our church for 1942 present to you the opportunities to do this.

Because of your expressed interest we believe you consider the church an asset to the community. We believe you appreciate its services and rejoice in its progress. Therefore we are inviting you to a special Consecration Service, March 29, at eleven o'clock. It is the day we prove our faith by our pledges. It is a promise to God, that by His grace, we will give in the year 1942 a certain portion of what He gives to us. The giving of money is the true symbol of our faith, devotion and love to Christ and His Church.

Please return the enclosed card to the Church Treasurer by mail, or drop it in the offering plate at the worship service Sunday. We will announce the total amount of all pledges at the Consecration Service, March 29th. Make a pledge, no matter how large or how small --God gave His only Son --Christ gave His life that we might have abundant life.

The Church Council
W.C. Mau , Chairman

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH BUDGET

Budget for 1941 (total expenditures) ----------	$1591.45
Budget for 1942 (proposed budget) ----------	1559.50
Total reduction for 1942 ----------	$ 31.95

Items in the new years budget are as follows:

Local expenses (for ourselves):		
Pastor's Salary ----------	$ 732.50	
Board of Pensions ----------	57.00	
Per Capita Assessment ----------	30.00	
Fuel ----------	120.00	
Lights ----------	100.00	
Water ----------	30.00	
Maintenance and repair ----------	160.00	
Church Stationery, etc. ----------	10.00	
Miscellaneous supplies ----------	100.00	
Janitor Salary ----------	60.00	
Furnishings (Pulpit chairs, etc.)	75.00	
Total		$1474.50
Benevolences (for others - should equal 10 % of local exp.)		
Board of National Missions -----	30.00	
Board of Foreign Missions ------	20.00	
Board of Christian Education ---	5.00	
Church War Emergency Fund ------	30.00	
Total		85.00
Grand Total		$1559.50

We are including this budget with the letter and return card to assist you in making your contribution to your church. Itemized account of last years budget may be obtained from the Church Treasurer.

Please return your pledge card and help us underwrite the Church Budget for 1942. This method of Every Member Participation is used to prevent our having to use calling committees, automobiles, tires, gasoline, etc. Your church recognizes the national emergency and is willing to cooperate. in conserving our resources as recommended by the Government. By returning your pledge cards you will make it possible to raise our budget without a Canvass Committee having to call.

The Consecration Service, March 29th, is Palm Sunday and our Communion Service for the Lent and Easter Season. Please make a special effort to be present at this service. Invite a friend and be here to welcome him.

TO BE USED EVERY MONTH, and enclosed with the Monthly Report to Everett B. King, Secretary for Sunday School Missions

SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY REPORT

Of O. Wilber Randall Alaska ~~Sunday School~~ Missionary

Date April 17, 1942

Note—This Supplement is furnished for the purpose of giving the Missionary an opportunity of reporting special work performed during the month, for which adequate space is not provided on the regular Monthly Report blank. It should be used also, to give information concerning the conditions of the field; the progress of the Community schools under the Missionary's care and any interesting incidents or experiences in connection with the month's work. Write on both sides.

March 15th to April 14th, the first year we have served a full month in the "Theater of Active Warefare" according to the Alaska Defense Command. The month has witnessed further and more concrete evidences of the present world war. Each service we see some soldiers in our congregation. Not many usually but the Easter Services were attended by about a dozen men in uniform.

I did not have a service at Eklutna this month because of arrangements with Mr. Chandler. He brought our members up on Palm Sunday for Communion Service instead of having me come down there on the fourth Sunday.

Only one member was received at the Easter Service, but we had three children to Baptize. The Choir sang five special Easter numbers for the Easter Service. On that day we had the usual attendance of Easter - the largest attendance of the year so far.

The 5:00 A. M. Service on Easter Sunday was attended by thrity six young people and adults. The usual group from the Indian School did not come up because of bad roads. They Had Chaplain Ralph Wheeler at the school for a sunrise service.

A few more people have gone outside - to visit (maybe for the duration) with relatives outside. The "outside" means more now than just the States, it measn outside the zone of activity with reference to the War.

No one seems to be over-enthusiastic about making active schedules for the summer. Most everyone had rather just live from day to day up here, so we minister to them in that manner rather than setting up s schedule for the summer.

April 25, 1942

Rev. Mr. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

Thanks for sending me the letter and the proposed budget that you used in your Every Member-Canvass in Palmer. I hope that the results will be greater than you are anticipating.

Your letter was most interesting because it reflected the unrest and the uncertainty that certainly must exist there in the valley.

The Navy missed having a good man on account of your eyes, but I am thankful that we did not lose you.

Cubbage is already back in the States. Because of the complicated conditions in transportation, we had him fly out. I have not seen him yet, but expect to have fellowship with him at the meeting of General Assembly.

Rev. M. L. Witherspoon is the name of the new minister at Reserve. I would judge him to be about fifty years old and he was formerly a foreign missionary. Yes, I think he is married and has a family of two or three girls. So far as I know, and from what reports I have been able to receive, he is fitting into the picture in a very fine way. I do not know of any special help you can give him about the Camp Meeting, but no doubt will think about it later. If so, shall write you.

I note you have in the proposed budget $75.00 for furnishings, which include pulpit chairs. I have a confession to make: When I was in Palmer first I saw the need for these chairs and promised the church that I would make a personal gift if they would let me know the cost. Brother Bingle never had time to have the chairs made so I have not yet fulfilled my promise. However, the promise still holds. If you will have the pulpit chairs made and send me the bill, I shall be glad to make that as my personal contribution to your work.

Tell me about your family. Is the climate agreeing with your wife and the baby?

Cordially yours,

EBK-M

Palmer, Alaska
April 27, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I have just sent in my application for a commission as Chaplain in the United States Army. I was able to get only a limited service approval on my physical due to poor eyes, but Chaplain McBride thinks that is sufficient to bring me a Chaplain Commission.

I did not take this step on emotional or sudden decision. Many things have happened, and others are happening that makes it appear that our property may be sitting in a military reserve before the end of the summer, and he who ministers here will have to be in uniform if that happens. The things I am going to point to as evidences may be sensored because of their military importance, but I am going to list them and hope they reach you.

These are the developments:

1. The valley has been surveyed, photographed, gunnery locations made on the maps for locating anti-aircraft guns.

2. The land has been appraised, and a block of six adjoining farms designated as the runway for the sub-base for the field. Adjoining farms have been appraised for possible military reserve area, making the total area about six square miles including the Civic Center of Palmer.

3. Soldiers are here already as guards for the equipment stored in the Fair Buildings, buildings taken over by the Army for the duration of the war.

4. Strictly confidential information regarding the quartering of 25 to thirty commissioned officers in the Dormitory by June. That means that there will be possibly 400 men stationed here.

5. Equipment for an emergency field hospital, possibly as large as 200 bed capacity are stored in the valley; and the only building large enough for such a unit would be the none but the school building.

6. Prospects for a military govenor are becoming more positive, and such a Govehor would be a member of the Alaska Defense Command. The Staff of the Command thinks that the valley is more valuable to the army as a sub-base than it is to the present colonists as farms. This fact is substantuated on the prices asked for Matanuska grown produce; Matanuska produce costing more here than imported produce plus freight.

7. Confidential information regarding the possibility of the Army taking over the RailRoad for the duration. The present manager of the Alaska Rail Road was called into Washington last week. Management of the railroad by the Army will mean no Young Peoples Conference in the Valley this summer, so I am informed by a Major.

8. The Alaska Defense Command wants the valley for a base, and Mr. Don L. Irwin, one of my council members who formerly managed the Colony in its early days, told me that the original purpose for establishment of this colony was military - so he was informed in Washington when called back there and given charge of it in the early days of the colony.

9. The fact that most of the men are working on the Army Base and not farming their places proves that they are more interested in defense project jobs than in farming. Also the total amount of food produced here could be shipped up on two ships, making the defense of these few civilians far more important than a ship load of potatoes. Therefore, they may be removed to make room for extended fortification of the Territory.

These facts, developing over the past six months, make it appear that Palmer will become a military reserve. In such case a Chaplain will be placed here with the men in uniform, and will minister to the people here. That is the prospect at present, and I was given reason to believe the developments point to that by a member of the Alaska Defense Command Staff.

Should I be rejected or refused a commission as Chaplain in the Army, I should be happy to remain here until such developements brought about other problems. In case I am commissioned, I am sure the Council of the Church will release me for the Duration without reservation, and accept a supply furnished by you. Mr. Irwin is of the opinion that either Mr. Bingle, who is already in the Territory, or Rev. Prouty would be acceptable for the duration or until you could be able to replace them with a permanent man. I believe Rev. Prouty would be acceptable as pastor under present conditions, but we can not say for how long. I would personally recommend B. J. because I really believe this thing will fold up as a colony. It will be opened after the war, when a road is open to the territory.

As things stand now there can be no further developement here. The Corporation has a strangle-hold on the land. A new settler has to assume the indebtedness of the improvements, which is more than they are worth, and as a result more houses are becoming vacant and none vacant are being filled. The CoOperative association has the farmers tied to where the association dictates the prices asked for the produce here, and that price is unreasonable when compared to farm produce elsewhere. The CoOperative here asks 25 cents per head for lettuce, when as good lettuce can be shipped into here and sold for fifteen cents after freight is paid. Those things added to military facts make it look ripe for Army picking.

If this reaches you please reply as soon as possible. Have you any suggestions in view of inclosed information.

Sincerely yours,

Wilbur Randall

May 6, 1942

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I have made out your application blank for a chaplaincy and am mailing it today.

No one can answer some of the questions that you have raised about the decision except you. You and your Lord will have to be in the final conference. I am perfectly willing to abide by whatever decision you make.

In case you are appointed as Chaplain and do accept you, of course, will let me know so that we can plan to supply the Palmer Church. I appreciate your suggestions about the two possible supplies. Due to the transportation problem together with the heavy cost of sending Prouty back into Alaska, I am quite sure that Bingle will be the man.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Palmer, Alaska
May 30, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I am taking off to answer your last three letters to me and shall answer them in order of date mailed to me. First I shall answer your letter of April 25th.

The proposed budget for the year has not been subscribed sufficiently to consider it a success. Our treasurer has just informed me that only $360.00 has been brought up as pledged. Others have stated with sympathy that they will do all they can to help reach the budget, but due to all the uncertainty they are not ready to pledge anything. The unrest and uncertainty of the valley is even greater today than it was a month ago.

Developements as to the sub-base here have seemed to meet some slow-down due to other more strategic locations, but the plans to use this area are probable by harvest if possible. Only a small percent of the farmers are on their places this summer, and more and more are going into defense construction work. The Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation has just made a call for payments of annual notes, just when the few here need what money they have for seed. Prospects are very gloomy.

Due to developements on the transportation problem it looks as if the Cubbages will have to fly back to Anchorage. Some who have just come into the Territory say that it is almost impossible to get transportation up here.

I just received the "Cactus Points" from Bill Orr, in New Mexico, and it reveals that there is a considerable change taking place there as well as here. I guess this war is causing a very great unrest and fear in the minds and hearts of many today.

I mentioned your offer to pay for the pulpit chairs, but to date we have not been ableto find anyone who has time to make them. Those who are not working at the base are farming, and no labor is available at any cost, or for any purpose other than for themselves and families. Some day we may have furniture made, but that seems a dim possibility at this time.

You inquired about the health of the family. Thank you for the kind personal interest. We have had only fair health, the baby and Monia have had very severe colds, and the baby almost had Pneumonia the last time. The past few weeks since the snow is melted we have had as bad dust as in the "dust boll" out in the states. Everyone in the valley has had generally poor health this year so we are no exception. All are well at present.

Cordially yours,
Wilder Kandall

Palmer, Alaska
May 30, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for the letter of May 6th.

I appreciate your prompt returning of the questionaire regarding my application for a Chaplaincy in the Army. I have had no response from the General Commission on Chaplains nor from the War Department. Chaplain McBride, feels that I am sure to be Commissioned due to their very urgent need for Chaplains.

I have settled all the questions mentioned in a former letter regarding my decision about the Army Chaplaincy. I feel that it is my Christian Responsibility to answer the call of the army to serve with the men in the fighting forces today.

Since receiving your letter regarding the probability of Bingle being sent here, I have talked with a number of the members of the church here. They would accept that as a temporary arrangement, but they still feel that Bingle has served his time in the valley.

I recall talking with David Crawford, while at Presbytery, and he stated that he would like very much to be here at Palmer. Since receiving your letter I have mentioned him as a possibility and it seems that the people here would be very happy to have him as pastor in case I am taken in the army as Chaplain. It is also generally considered that Bingle could go to Cardova to save the cost of sending a man from outside.

Here are some of the implications and problems that I see on this end so far as that exchange could be worked out. It would cost the Board a little to make the two moves, and money is not available; but it would be benificial to the work in the long run in the territory. If Crawford came to Palmer he would need a Car, and cars are not to be had unless used cars can be found. Bingle has a car, and he might sell it to Crawford if he saw that he did not need it down there at Cardova. I have a car here that the Board has paid transportation and part equity in, and I would be willing to sell my equity in it to the Board and let you sell it to Crawford. I believe that my car would be a better proposition for him.

I would take $500.00 for my equity in the car I have if you want the remainder of it. Otherwise I shall sell it for cash (I have two offers for $1050.00 cash, of which I shall send $550.00 to you) and use the other for present indebtedness. If you would want more than that part of the price of the car I should be happy to consider your request.

Generally it appears to me that the present need for a general missionary here is a undue expense to the Board. With all due regards for Mr. Bingle I state the following facts. To date there has been no preaching services held at the mines bordering the Matanuska valley. Each trip with Mr. Bingle, and I have made most of them, he makes two or three calls and sometimes gives out devotional material; but has had no services. I had a joint service for Jonesville and Eska mines people a few weeks ago while the missionary was on Stlaurence Island, and they were not particularly interested since they were unacustomed to having services. The times I have been up there has been a group of school teachers or others for a Skiing paryt with Mr. Bingle..

I have talked with a few people from points on the railroad and some think that it is strange that they havehad no services at their stops. I state these facts as a member of this Presbytery and the Bresbyterian Church whose money is being used, and it does not make me feel inspired that the salary and expense money used by the missionary is being spread so thin. Why not use him at Cardova, move Crawford here and give him $200.00 to covef the mines, Eklutna, Wasilla, Knik, etc. and use the remainder of the $1,000.00 expense money for making the double move.

I know that there will be loud crying, but under the present possibilities of budget cuts, and the probability of the Board having to cary more (possibly almost all) of the support of the man here until things settle to normal; such a set up would look wise to me. I am not trying to tell you how to run the Work in Alaska, only offering these as suggestions and not as criticism. Most of the men in Presbytery will agree with what I say about the general need for a missionary.

The worship and order Committee of this church would take Bingle for the temporary supply until Crawford could be brought, but it would be good if Crawford and wife could be sent on up by air as soon as they had their personal things packed.

This is all possibilities in case I am commissioned. If I am not called as a Chaplain I shall remain here, at least as long as I can be of service to this Church and to you. I hope you do not consider any of the suggestions regarding the work as criticism with prejudice or malice, they are made stricily impersonally. Should I receive a Commission I shall notify you by wire, and you may reply the same way including consideration of car.

Cordially yours,

Wilbur Randall

June 8, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

Thank you for your good suggestions about David Crawford and Bert Bingle. Of course, I do not feel that you are trying to dictate the policies of the work in Alaska. It is always good to have such recommendations from the men on the field. It is not always possible to carry out these recommendations but nevertheless they do furnish guideposts for us to work along with.

In regard to your car - it seems to me that the safest thing for you to do is to dispose of it for cash and send us the amount due and then use the balance to liquidate your present indebtedness. Of course, a car would be helpful to the man who succeeds you but you have definite obligations that you must take care of and in this particular case I think it would be the wisest thing to see to it that your own household was placed in order.

I shall be anxiously waiting to hear some other word from you about your application for the chaplaincy.

My love to the family.

Cordially yours,

EBK:MoE

TO BE USED EVERY MONTH, and enclosed with the Monthly Report to J. M. Sonnendike, Secretary for Sunday School Missions

SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY REPORT

Of O. Wilber Randall, Alaska Work Sunday School Missionary

Date June 18, 1942

Note—This Supplement is furnished for the purpose of giving the Missionary an opportunity of reporting special work performed during the month, for which adequate space is not provided on the regular Monthly Report blank. It should be used also, to give information concerning the conditions of the field; the progress of the Community schools under the Missionary's care and any interesting incidents or experiences in connection with the month's work. Write on both sides.

This month has seen agriculture start in the valley. That is the time when every other thing stops and all work on the farms. Church attendance has fallen off sharply until the last Sunday, June 14th.

Sunday, 14th of June we did not have our childrens day program, but instead had the community 4H Club day at the church here. I had a special Church service on the second H in the 4H Club motto. I used the text from the 6th chapter of Luke "For of the abundance of the heart..." We worked with the University Extension service and had a very large attendanceof children and parents present.

Sunday, June 21st we have set aside for our Childrens Day. We plan to take the entire Sunday School to the Kings Lake Conference ground for the Sunday School program which the Board presents this year. The publicity has been out three weeks and we have a picnic dinner and afternoon Devotional service planned for the day. There will be swimming, boating, games, and a good time for old and young alike. Total procedes in offerings are to be sent in to Sunday School Missions.

You will notice a funeral service listed on the report. A very sad affair of a baby. The baby boy of the bookkeeper at the garage, which we baptised just after coming to palmer, choked on flim in his throat. His mother found him cold in the morning, and I believe they were more deeply grieved by this loss than any parents I have known to date. They are still not reconciled to their loss.

At our council meeting we discussed your request relative to the amount given by Palmer. The council feels we can raise that amount, and since most of the Christian Endeavor youngsters are making from eighty to two hundred per month at fish canneries, and other work; they are going to try to raise it as their Church pledge. That with two individual $10;00 promises and the Childrens Day offering should more than raise the fifty.

Have had no word from the Army - still working here.

Palmer, Alaska
July 13, 1942

Dear Dr. King:

Inclosed is a copy of a letter to Dr. Strock at Lancaster.

I have had no further word from the Application for a Chaplain Commission. Hope you are enjoying the summers work. Wish I could be at the Camp Meetings with you.

Wilber

Palmer, Alaska
July 13, 1942

Rev. Henry B. Strock
140 East Orange Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Strock:

I feel that it is about time for me to report on the work in this part of Alaska. I must ask your forgiveness for not reporting to you more often. There is no reason for my not having written more often other than the fact that I am always trying to accomplish something here and never seem to take time to write.

Alaska grows on a person. The general attitude of the people in the territory is to be rather indifferent about time, and as a result one could go native if he did not keep busy. I find it easy to keep busy about twelve or fifteen hours per day, but when I look about to see the results of my work I feel that I am not doing a great deal. Possibly that is one of my greatest shortcomings, wanting spontaneous results or sudden signs of development.

The work here in the Matanuska valley has been the most difficult task I have faced in the ministry. From the first the valley has been considerably short of the reports I was able to get before coming up here. I have been discouraged at times, and at other times I have felt that this was the greater challenge because of the limited facts given to me prior to my coming up here. In all events the work has been truly characterized by the word WORK.

When I came up here the Council of the church here did the very strange thing of allowing me to believe that we had far greater possibilities for service than exist. I set up a full program of two preaching services, Sunday school and Christian Endeavor for Sunday; mid-week prayer meeting; and choir practice. I had plans for some Leadership training work for the teachers, and the council agreed and offered to support every proposed interest projected. The first month portrayed the interesting lack of support. Only one of the Council members made a special effort to accomplish our new plans, the others sat back and observed.

At the end of the first month the Council asked if I was set on trying to continue the evening services on Sunday. I was, but the roads glazed over with ice, temperatures went near zero and the dozen that had been making special effort to get to the evening services began to stay at home. I had to discontinue until fair weather, but by the time we had such weather the Council had confessed that it did not think it was practicable to have an evening service. The same conditions followed the mid-week service endeavors, and they were lost as well.

The conditions arising in the community and valley in general due to the war with Japan has caused the following results. The population took a very sudden decline. Over thirty percent of the children in the school had moved to Anchorage or gone back to the states before the end of the school year. Most of the men of the valley could make so much more money on construction work than they could make here in the valley that they took jobs away from their farms. The families of these men, what few are left in the valley, are left without transportation and are not able to be in church and Sunday school regularly. The mines that are in the mountains bordering the valley are having to close because labor is gone to the army or on defense work, and only the coal mines are required to continue as vital to defense.

In the summer time the Christian Endeavor group dispersed to work. The boys are driving trucks for the road commission, working as helpers at the army base, or working in the fish canneries. The girls have gotten work in the offices at the army camp, gone working in bakeries, laundries, and hospitals at the post. We had three girls left in the community and they wanted to discontinue our meetings until the others return at the end of the summer. Many of them have told me that they intend to continue working for the duration and then go to school. These boys and girls are making as much as ninety dollars per week in some instances, and none are making less than $150.00 per month. What has happened to the men and young people is happening to others here, and our attendance is very small now.

We have proceeded with plans for the usual summer interdenominational conference in August, but I doubt if we will have enough young people to make it possible. We have kept Sunday School going and continued working with the people in the community. We had a special day one Sunday in June for the 4H Club members and friends in the valley, and with special transportation we had only 67 present counting adults and children. At our children's day services we had only forty present, butit was a dreary day and raining. Fathers Day we had a special service for men, and there were ten men and fourteen women at the service. Other special efforts and services will not bring people who are making eighteen dollars per Sunday working.

Sometimes we are discouraged, and then we remember to be thankful that it is Alaska and not Poland or some European country we are working in, and our faith continues strong.

A few weeks ago the Army Chaplain in command of all the Chaplains in Alaska, Col. MacBride, came to me and talked to me about making application for a Chaplain Commission. After thinking the matter over and praying about it for a couple of weeks, I came to the decision that I could be of greater service there if it were the Lord's will that I should so serve. I made formal application at the Anchorage post, but have had no reply. I shall notify you as soon as I hear if accepted or rejected. I would like to remain a member of the Lancaster staff, but of course under the support of the Army.

I have not received your Church Bulletin for some time, and as a result am far behind on the Roll of Honor of our members now serving in the armed forces. If it is not too much to ask, I would appreciate a list of the names; and it might be that some of the boys from Lancaster are in Alaska. Their address would not be Alaska, but Seattle, Washington. The last few bulletins I received had many names of those in the service, and if the Lancaster church would honor me by loaning me to the Army in case I am Commissioned as a Chaplain, I would greatly appreciate being remembered and supported by the prayers of you and the faithful members of First Church.

Give my warm personal greetings to the members of the First Church, and especially to George and Mrs. Mann, Miss Kepler, and others.

I have not heard if you have lost any members of the family in the services. You mentioned that Frank might have to go but I have not heard more. I have a younger brother now serving in the Navy. The loss of the Bataan battle took many of my personal friends - 2300 New Mexico boys were lost there.

Cordially yours,

The Randalls

July 13, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

According to the enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Atwood. I am asking that you be the Moderator for Session at Anchorage. Am sure the session will get in touch with you. You can guide the church in accepting Cubbage's resignation as well as in extending the call to Armstrong.

You may state the Board will not make the same grant on the salary unless the church raises the difference to make the total $2000.

Have you heard from your application?

Will think about you the second in our Camp Meeting.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

TO BE USED EVERY MONTH, and enclosed with the Monthly Report to Everett B. King, Secretary for Sunday School Missions

SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY REPORT

Of O. Wilber Randall (Alaska) & Sunday School Missionary

Date July 18, 1942

Note—This Supplement is furnished for the purpose of giving the Missionary an opportunity of reporting special work performed during the month, for which adequate space is not provided on the regular Monthly Report blank. It should be used also, to give information concerning the conditions of the field; the progress of the Community schools under the Missionary's care and any interesting incidents or experiences in connection with the month's work. Write on both sides.

The month of June and July should have been filled with all kinds of special activities to keep interest alive, but due to Alaska climate and traditions there seems to be no way of interesting these people in extra church affairs.

The first Sunday of this report, June 21st, we observed as Childrens day. We had planned to take the Sunday School out to the Kings Lake for the day, but the weather was not good. It was too cold and rainy to go early, so we had our Sunday School service and Picnic Lunch at the Church, and later in the day we went to the Lake. On this trip the youngsters went swimming in the lake, but ill fortune prevailed and three of the girls got their feet cut on broken glass some one had thrown into the Lake.

The Fathers day service was moved back a Sunday also on account of the traditions here. We made special effort to have a good attendance of the men at this service, but the farms held more attention than things of the spirit, and the attendance was very poor. I was rather discouraged to think that paper, radio, and personal announcement of the service did not bring more people to the service. In the afternoon I had a funeral which conflicted with my Eklutna appointment and I had to bury the dead.

I believe I have had more funerals in the few months I have been here than did Mr. Bingle in the whole time he was here. About one funeral and one wedding per month are my average here.

The first two Sundays of July were nothing important so far as results here in the valley. July 5th, coming so near the drunken celebration of the Fourth, which seems to be a set custom or tradition here, there was an all time low in attendance at churches. One is inclined to wonder if the money spent here is appreciated, yet Abraham prayed for Sodom and it must have been worse than Alaska.

Have had no further communication on myapplication for a Chaplain Commission, other than word that it is held up for denominational endorsement - maybe I am not a good Presbyterian. I can not understand the delay in our denominational committee when there are groups of soldiers in danger areas up here with no Chaplain. The Commanding Chaplain in Alaska is still about a score short of number of chaplains needed.

August 12th, 1942

Rev. O. Wilber Randall,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I have your letter of August 4th in which you set forth a delayed problem in regard to your application for chaplaincy.

Personally I do not understand why these delays have been necessary. You are one of several ministers who have written similar complaints. I am today writing to Dr. Pugh urging him to make a clearance for you. I trust that I can be of some help.

In your last letter you mention something about selling your car and I recommend that you proceed to make the sale. I hope you are able to clear the car and to free yourself of your obligations before you accept the appointment as a chaplain.

Cordially yours,

EBK:G

TO BE USED EVERY MONTH, and enclosed with the Monthly Report to Everett B. King, Secretary for Sunday School Missions

SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY REPORT

Of O. Wilber Randall (Alaska) Sunday School Missionary

Date August 15, 1942

Note—This Supplement is furnished for the purpose of giving the Missionary an opportunity of reporting special work performed during the month, for which adequate space is not provided on the regular Monthly Report blank. It should be used also, to give information concerning the conditions of the field; the progress of the Community schools under the Missionary's care and any interesting incidents or experiences in connection with the month's work. Write on both sides.

Served the Valley with regular services, except the Sunday I moderated the Session and Congregational meeting at the Anchorage Church for the purpose of disolving the Pastoral relationship between the Church and Cubbage, and to extend the call of that Church to Rev. R. R. Armstrong.

Have not been able to hear from Philadelphia regarding the Committee approval of my application. Would appreciate some wprd of their action one way or the other. This serving with no long time plan is very difficult both for the pastor and the Church.

Have had one funeral and a wedding, observed the beginning of the third quarter of the years services with the Communion of the Lords Supper. Had a very light attendance, and only about twenty took Communion.

At our Council meeting we made plans for doing a little work on the church to make it a little more comfortable in the winter months. The men are planning to come and do the work in the evenings when the Trustees make the appeal. Some discussion was given to the subject of putting a modern heating unit into the church by installing a circulating heat system like the one in the Fairbanks Church. The community could pay for a furnace, stoker, heat pipes and blower if the Trustees would get busy on it. I think it is not very encouraging to have the pastor look forward to firing the two old burnt out oil drum heaters again this winter.

Would like to know if you are planning to come up this year?

August 26, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Friend Randall:

I am sorry that you have grown impatient with the Denominational Committee in regard to your application for a chaplain's commission. With the needs so close to your eyes the delay must seem most unwise and unfair. I have talked to Dr. Pugh relative to the delay and he has given me the assurance that the Committees for Denominations are forced to move slowly due to the fact that so many unworthy applications come in. This Committee feels that they would be doing a gross injustic to O. K. applications that later on would have to be rescinded. Consequently personal interviews are being made for all applications.

From your side of the picture things do look most discouraging but from the Committee's side there is something to them to say, too.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Palmer, Alaska
August 26, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avnue
New York, N. Y.

re letter of 8/12 - attached

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your letter of the12th. We were happy to hear of the fine response at the Ranchmans Camp Meeting, and wished that we could be there with you.

I appreciate your writing to Dr. Pugh, regarding my application for Chaplaincy. I have had no word to date, and may still be pastor here for the duration; however I do not know of any reason why I should be denied denominational approval, and that is all that is holding up my papers. No less important persons than the commanding chaplain here, Col. McBride, has done all he could to get me a commission; and a few days ago Col. Weed, chief of all chaplains in the fourth army was here, and he said that he would be in the East soon and would do all that he could to get me a commission since he is unable to get enough Chaplains to meet his demands.

The past week we had our Interdemominational Young Peoples Conference here at King's Lake Camp. We had thirty six registered but a few of those were soldiers who could be out only a short time and could not attend the whole conference. We had thirty or thirty one who attended all the conference. Due to limited leadership the four of us who filled that capacity had full schedules. I had three classes in the morning, did all the transporting of groceries and necessities, and had the closing service in the evening. Leaders were mostly Presbyterian.

The faculty consisted of Rev. E. G. Knight, Methodist of Seward; Miss Dorothy Cole, formerly at Haynes House and now working in Seward; ~~Rev~~. Rev. B. J. Bingle,and I.

At the close of a week of inspirational fellowship and living, it fell my good fortune to have the closing service in the evening of the last day. When the invitation for decisions for Christ was given fifteen of the young people - half the regularly attending delegates, came forward; then on the invitation for reconsecration and further dedication to Christian service eighteen others came forward. The extras were young people of the valley who had come out for the evening service. I believe this is the greatest and most thriling experience of my work thus far as a Christian minister.

The beauty of the surroundings, those marvelous blessings of God which surpass mans discription, had very favorable affect; but no place in the conference did we make the appeal through emotions. The invitations were logical thinking and not mere emotions, and decisions were the same.

Cordially yours, Wilder Randall

September 2, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

On July 6th, Mrs. McEwen wrote requesting information for Dr. Dawber on the military and defense situation and its effect upon our church work in Palmer. To date we have heard nothing from you regarding this matter. Since Dr. Dawber is waiting for this material we shall appreciate receiving a statement from you by return airmail.

Cordially yours

McE

Palmer, Alaska
September 22, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Everett:

Thanks to a couple of days of flying weather and the mail, I received your last two letters, both several days old.

You reminded me that I had not sent the requested information to Dr. Dawber, and I am replying as per your request. I am sorry that I had slipped up and failed to send that before.

Another development in the Alaska picture is that I have sold my automobile, and am inclosing a check to the Board for $500.00 to settle your advance to me. I hope that this reaches you in time for it to be considered settled during the same year in which the advance was made. If the check is not enough please let me know, if it more than covers the advance you may refund the surplus to me.

Harvest time is here, and the few people in the valley are working very hard. Theyare trying to get their potatoes, carrots, and other crops harvested before hard freezing sets in here in the farming area. We have had two light freezes with killing frost.

We have lost another family or two into Anchorage, and are losing our doctor. The Hospital is leased to the Alaska Advent (7th day) Mission, and they are furnishing a staff of their missionaries as doctor and nurses. The majority of the people here are against such procedure, but the Co-Operating association gave the Advent Mission a lease and then announced it to the community. It is causing a nasty situation, and will likely kill our hospital.

I was at the Chaplains office last week and he informed mehe is requesting another dozen Chaplains for Alaska. It would be very convenient for them to assign me to duty at once, but it seems our Church Committee feels I can be of more benefit to the dozen families here in the valley, at least I have not received notice of "Endorsement". Sometimes I wish the committee members could see the situation as I see and know it here. There are posts here that have no Chaplain, and have had no more than one service in six or eight months, simply because the war department can not get the Chaplains to send up here.

Cordially yours,

Wilder

Palmer, Alaska
September 22, 1942

Dr. Mark A. Dawber
Executive Secretary of the Home Missions Council

Dear Sir:

I have received your request for information regarding the military and defense situation in my territory.

As you know, all Alaska is considered "theater of war area" and that includes the Matanuska Valley. We are so near the army that we see men in uniform, but so far away that we would not know that there is a war if we did not have radios. The valley has no military installations, yet a good number of the men from the farms here are away working on defense jobs. Naturally there is a local organization of the territorial guard here, comparable to our national guard units in the states; but differing in the fact that all the members of the local guard are non-military age men, and could not serve in a branch of the armed forces.

The greatest effect of the situation upon the work of the church is its lowering attendance at services. The men who are away at work have left the family at home without transportation, and as a result the family is ab sent from the regular services of the church. Most of our members are faithfully paying their church pledges, and expect the pastor to continue his calling, which is done regularly.

The reported effects of extreme increase or decrease in church interest is totally lacking here. Our members generally accept the situation and continue their daily routine work. Those who were not in attendance have not become suddenly interested in the church. There was anxiety and some families returned to the states on the outbreak of war, but those who try to continue a normal life here are doing so with seeming satisfactory results.

While the war was only a few months old we had many rumors but now we have little or no rumor-mongering. One might sum the situation up by comparing it to any rural community in the states, considering its population and nearness or separation from army posts and industry.

I regret that we have no startling conditions to report so far as reports go, but I am thankful for the pre sent condition so far as we are concerned parsonally and as a church.

Very sincerely yours,
O Wilber Randall
O. Wilber Randall
United Protestant Church, Palmer

October 7, 1942

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I have your check for $500.00 and am going to play Santa Claus to you.

According to my letter of October 21, 1941, I stated that the Board would assume $232.40 of the amount that was advanced to you early in September, which left a balance of $400.00 for you to repay. Since you have been repaying this amount at the rate of $12.50 for twelve months, through October, 1942, your balance due is only $250.00. Accordingly, I am deducting $250.00 from $500.00 and am returning you a check for $250.00. This will clear the books and make everyone happy, I hope.

I wish you would write me more about the situation in Anchorage in regard to the hospital, which does seem to be rather a bad situation.

I am searching my records here to see whether or not I have anything that would be helpful in getting the situation in Anchorage cleared up.

Cordially yours,

EBK:MR
Enc.
Airmail

September 24, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. O. Wilbor Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilbor:

I plan to be in Philadelphia again today and will try to see Dr. Pugh and speak to him again about your application for chaplaincy. If I find out any encouraging word I shall let you know.

Thanks for the good report about your King's Lake Camp and Conference. Bingle has also written to me about the conference. He felt that it was one of the very best that had been conducted although the attendance was not too great. He spoke very highly of your leadership and commended you for the fine spirit that you were manifesting. More power to you!

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Palmer, Alaska
Sept 30, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your good letter of Sept. 4th and my check, which arrived almost a month after they were post-marked.

I want to express my gratitude to you and the Board of National Missions for the privilege of serving with you in the past, and for the renewal of that privilege for the coming year. I count it more than a privilege to serve with you in the coming year, and I pledge my very best in consecrated service for Christ.

Should I be called to serve with the Armed Forces I would have to go, but until that call comes I shall serve here. Thank you and may God richly bless you and Mrs. King in the difficult year ahead. Cordially yours,

Wilbur Randall

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH BUDGET

Budget for 1941 (total expenditures) ----------	$1591.45
Budget for 1942 (proposed budget) ----------	1559.50
Total reduction for 1942 ----------	$ 31.95

Items in the new years budget are as follows:

Local expenses (for ourselves):		
Pastor's Salary ----------	$ 732.50	
Board of Pensions ----------	57.00	
Per Capita Assessment ----------	30.00	
Fuel ----------	120.00	
Lights ----------	100.00	
Water ----------	30.00	
Maintenance and repair ----------	160.00	
Church Stationery, etc. --------	10.00	
Miscellaneous supplies ----------	100.00	
Janitor Salary ----------	60.00	
Furnishings (Pulpit chairs, etc.)	75.00	
Total		$1474.50
Benevolences (for others - should equal 10 % of local exp.)		
Board of National Missions -----	30.00	
Board of Foreign Missions ------	20.00	
Board of Christian Education ---	5.00	
Church War Emergency Fund ------	30.00	
Total		85.00
Grand Total		$1559.50

We are including this budget with the letter and return card to assist you in making your contribution to your church. Itemized account of last years budget may be obtained from the Church Treasurer.

Please return your pledge card and help us underwrite the Church Budget for 1942. This method of Every Member Participation is used to prevent our having to use calling committees, automobiles, tires, gasoline, etc. Your church recognizes the national emergency and is willing to cooperate. in conserving our resources as recommended by the Government. By returning your pledge cards you will make it possible to raise our budget without a Canvass Committee having to call.

The Consecration Service, March 29th, is Palm Sunday and our Communion Service for the Lent and Easter Season. Please make a special effort to be present at this service. Invite a friend and be here to welcome him.

Palmer, Alaska
October 6, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

In yesterdays mail I received a letter from the office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, stating that at the meeting of the Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains, September 14, 1942, I was approved by the denomination, and that my papers had been forwarded to the War Department for further handling. Probably the War Department will not take so long to clear my application for a Chaplain Commission due to their continued need for more Chaplains in Alaska.

I received your request regarding the property in the manse, and have a list compiled as you requested. We discussed the properties at the Council Meeting last night, and there was a question regarding the ownership of the property of manse furnishings. The church sold the old stove that was here, and purchased a new "Flamo Gas" kitchen stove. They also paid for another bed which I bought for the Manse. The question was raised,"should the Board own all the furniture in the Manse" to clear insurance on manse and furnishings. You will receive inquiries regarding this matter, and the matter of the $30.00 per month which was being paid to the pastors salary instead of the Board, toward the liquidation of the Board loan on the church building.

Rev. Bingle, has just had edited a little booklet on the work of the church in Alaska. I am inclosing a letter (copy) of the criticism I sent to him. I believe you will be in sympathy with my criticism since it is only given to encourage editing of facts, though they do not make good figures. I am sending this copy to you because I am sure you will receive correspondance regarding the commun ication.

Last Sunday night, October 4th, we reorganized our Christian Endeavor with sixteen present. We had to recess during the summer because most of the youngsters were away working.

Should I receive a Commission shortly I shall wire you immediately on receipt of same.

Cordially yours,
C. Wilber Randall
Wilber Randall

P.S. I forgot to list two good book cases I built and am leaving in the Manse Study

(copy)

PALMER, ALASKA
October 6, 1942

Rev. B. J. Bingle
College, Alaska

Dear B. J.:

A package of the little booklets "Trail Blazer" was sent to me by the editor. I have looked over them and find that you have made a grave error in the write up regarding me. You state that: "He supervised the Young People's Conferences in the state and conducted the Ranchman's Camp Meeting in New Mexico."

I have never claimed that honor, and it was never my privilege. I did serve as Dean of a couple of Intermediate Conferences, but was assisted by others in the conference staff. The Supervisor of the Sunday School Missions work in New Mexico, Rev. Ralph J. Hall, D. D., supervises the conferences on the different missionaries fields; and the Senior and Young People's Conference is an independent committee working directly with the Boards of the Church and the churches in New Mexico.

As for the Ranchman's Evangelistic Camp Meetings, there were three of them in the state, each having its own committee which conducts the meetings; and Rev. Ralph J. Hall, works with the committees and furnishes much camping equipment for the meetings. I helped with the material work and advertising of two of the meetings, but definitely did not conduct these meetings. I have never claimed that honor.

Your figures regarding the membership and the Sunday School attendance at the Palmer church are grossly incorrect as of current figures. Why did you not ask for the present figures before having the booklet edited.

Due to these errors I shall not distribute any of them until they are corrected. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Dr. King, stating my criticism of the booklet. I am in agreement that such a booklet is much needed on the Church work in Alaska, but I think that the reading constituency of the church should not be given something that needs the above mentioned corrections. I do not care to be represented as one claiming credit that is not mine because it is neither fair to me nor to those to whom the honor is due.

Personally I think these errors should be corrected before the booklet is distributed.

Sincerely yours,
O. Wilber Randall
O. Wilber Randall, Pastor
United Protestant Church, Palmer

October 8, 1942

Rev. Mr. O. Wilber Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I have a question to ask about the situation there in Palmer. Back in June, 1942 I received a letter from Mrs. Margaret Miller, signed the Secretary of the Council, in which she gave some information about the church that was the result of a meeting of the United Protestant Church Council on June 1st. In this letter Mrs. Miller stated:

> "The loan of $1700 from the Board of National Missions, granted October 1, 1937 and repaid on the pastor's salary at $30.00 per month, will have been liquidated with the September payment this year.
>
> Because of conditions as stated in Items 1 and 2 above, the congregation of the Palmer Church will be unable to continue the $30.00 monthly payments on the pastor's salary after the completion of the obligation mentioned in Item 3."

In your letter of September 20th you enclosed a copy of the budget, together with a statement showing what the local church was going to pay on your salary for this new year. The amount was $732.50. Am I to understand now that you are to receive a total salary of $1945.00? Am I to understand that the item referred to by Mrs. Miller had to do only with the loan of $1700.00 that was made from the Board of National Missions, granted in October, 1937? In other words, I want to be dead sure that you receive the full amount of your salary.

Cordially yours,

EBK:MR

October 21, 1942

Rev. W. Wilber Randall
Palmer
Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I have your letter of October 6th, in which you state that your application for a chaplaincy has been approved by our Presbyterian Chaplaincy Committee. The committee certainly has had ample time to make all investigations and more, too. I shall be glad if you will wire me immediately when some definite appointment comes through.

I had a letter from Mrs. Miller, asking some questions about the furniture and the manse. I answered, stating that the Board did not care to own the property and that if and when the Palmer Church became self-supporting then the Board would no doubt give all the furnishings to the church. The main thing we are after in the inventory is to find out what furniture is in the manse. We are not so much concerned about whom the furniture belongs to so long as it remains intact and at the disposal of the minister.

Even with the errors you found in the Trail Blazer, I think the publication has merit. It ought to prove interesting to the men in Alaska as well as the people outside.

Thanks for the inventory of the manse furnishings, which we are filing away for future reference. Thanks also for the snapshot of the little Randall.

Cordially yours,

EBk/as

Palmer, Alaska
October 28, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
Secretary of Alaskan Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I have received both your letters of October 7th. For the one including the check I am unable to thank you enough. I had remembered your letter of October, but felt that I might be asking too much to recall your offer of that date. I am indeed grateful to you and to the Board of National Missions for all the kindnesses and financial help you have given to me. Monia and I feel we are not worthy all the good things that have come to us through the Board, but are forever grateful and hope that we may be able to render services to repay in part the kind considerations granted to us.

In this letter you mention the situation of the Anchorage Hospital. I think you must be mistaken about the location of the hospital as I have had no word regarding a situation there. I mentioned in a letter on September 22, that our Palmer hospital situation was in a mess; but there is nothing that the Board can do about the situation.

Here is what happened. The Co-Operating association board of directors and manager, leased the Palmer hospital to the Alaska Advent Mission. The Co-Operating Association board had been trying to escape the responsibility and financing of the hospital, which was one of the units taken over from the original Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, which was the agency that was set up to extablish the colony here. Steps had been taken by some of us here, working through the local Health Council, to try to set up a hospital board to take the responsibility of the hospital, leaving the support of the hospital under the financial care of the Association (Co-Op.).

After work by the local doctor, Elder Don Irwin, and others including myself; the Co-Operating Association board disregarded our work and endeavors to relieve the situation. Then over a period of ninety days there was correspondance and negotiations between the Co-Op. manager and the Advent Church, which we now know climaxed in a sealed, signed, and delivered contract leasing the hospital outright to the 7th Day Advent church, and letting them staff the hospital with doctors and nurses. Our good doctor, who is a member of this church, and assistant to Dr. Albrecht, prior to his being inducted in the army (Albrechtx), was dismissed with less than a month notice.

There is a doctor here now, but no nurses. Most of the people here have boycotted the hospital, and on the 3rd of November the Co-Operating Association is calling a meeting for the purpose of recalling the board of directors of the association, and discharging the manager, L. C. Stock. The situation will then clear up, for the secrecy and underhanded methods used to date will cease. I think you need not bother with the situation.

Now regarding your letter of October 8th, relative to salary.

I have talked with the Treasurer of the church here at Palmer, and he wishes to let the Council answer the questions regarding my salary. Council meets again November 2nd.

It was his opinion, the Treasurer, that I was justly due the amount stipulated in the budget, but there is a very large and expensive item that must be attended to at a very early date, namely: an adequate heating plant for the church. The church might have to ask for a loan to install the unit and may have to ask the Board. If they do this they will be able to pay the remaining $90.00, toward my salary this year. The Treasurer said that he felt sure that I would be paid the agreed $732.50 for the year if some other arrangement could not be made, meaning: if the Board of National Missions can not pay it.

I would not do anything toward this until after the Council meets here if I were you. If the Council votes to request the amount from the Board, I shall notify you and you may attend to the matter at that time. I shall let you know what the Council decides and you may know what we have to face. I shall try to get the Council to continue the $30.00 until the end of the year, then other arrangements may be made by you and the Council here.

I have had no further word from the Army, but due to the papers received, and the fact that I have passed the final type physical examination required as the last step before acceptance; I feel sure that I shall have some word soon.

The Chaplains there at the Anchorage base guess that I shall be commissioned by the first of December. I shall notify you by wire the day the commission comes through.

Thanks again for being Santa Clause.

Cordially yours,

O. Wilbur Randall

Nov. 16, 1942

Rev. O Wilber Randall
United Protestant Church,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Wilber:

I am sorry that there was a mistake in my last letter about the Anchorage Hospital. Of course I know full well that there is no hospital at Anchorage. I had in mind the hospital at Palmer. I am glad that you were able to see through my business, and to give me the information that I wanted.

If you find at any time that I can be of help in the hospital problem, please do not hesitate to write me.

I shall take your advice about the salary situation and not do anything about it until I hear from you. Since all of your papers have gone through in regard to the application for Chaplaincy. I suspect that it will be only a short time now until you will be wiring me that you have been accepted and appointed. I hate to lose you from our work, but, of course, a man must be true to his own heart. I shall be interested in hearing from you from time to time if and when you are established in a new type of service. You ought to make a dandy chaplain. My love to the family.

Cordially yours,

mk

Palmer, Alaska
December 13, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

A few days ago I received a letter of greeting from the President of the Board of National Missions. The Letter was addressed to me as Chaplain, and I am rather at a loss as to how I should reply. First, I do not know if the President of the Board is man or woman - the name could be either- and I do not know how to reply. Secondly, I have not received any word that leads me to believe that I am a Chaplain, and wonder how it happened that I should be so addressed.

Another problem is confronting me, one of finances (as one among many) due to slow mail up here. My Check for last month has not reached me, and the fact that the last two months I have received only thirty-one dollars per month from the local church makes it rather difficult to manage on so little. If you have had any advanced information regarding my being Commissioned as a Chaplain in the Army, I would be very happy to know about it, providing there is any authority of the War Department behind the information. If such information has come to you from Alaska, may I say that it is totally untrue. I would have learned of it before anyone else, and I have promised to wire you the day such information reaches me, if it does.

The Local Church is striving toward a heating system, by saving what money we have on hand to pay for the material, and by the work of Mr. V. J. Johnson, our Treasurer, and myself. All last week we dug sand, made concrete morter, and built most of a concrete brick Chimney around a twelve by twelve glazed liner, Later we hope to install a coal furnace and stoker, providing we can get them and find the money to pay for them. There is a great probability that the church here will ask for some financial aid in the form of a loan from the Board.

An amusing thing happened at the last council meeting here. The discussion regarding the Electric lights came out, and it left my sails rather deflated. When I came up last year the Treasurer told me that he paid all the utility bills, and that I could pay part of the light bill. Time went on, and after I had asked two or three times what I should pay, I was told that the Council should designate the amount; but no amount was ever set, and the treasurer would not take any money for our part of the light bill. Last council meeting there was an amount agreed upon, namely two and a half dollars per month; but the amusing thing was that they made it retroactive until the first of the year. The results are that I shall receive this month one dollar salary above the years light bill.

That is all the news from this area. Monia and I send our wishes for you and Mrs. King, the Happiest Christmas you have experienced.

Cordially yours,

Wilbur Randell

TO BE USED EVERY MONTH, and enclosed with the Monthly Report to Everett B. King, Secretary for Sunday School Missions

SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY REPORT

Of Walter Randall Sunday School Missionary

Date December 7

Note—This Supplement is furnished for the purpose of giving the Missionary an opportunity of reporting special work performed during the month, for which adequate space is not provided on the regular Monthly Report blank. It should be used also, to give information concerning the conditions of the field; the progress of the Community schools under the Missionary's care and any interesting incidents or experiences in connection with the month's work. Write on both sides.

Dear Dr. King:

We started the month off with the fellowship dinner in the hours immediately following the worship on November 15th. We had a record attendance - due to the food - and I had a guest speaker, Chaplain Culpepper, preach for me.

Then on the 19th we began work toward installation of the new heating unit. We contracted for 9 cord tile liner and concrete blocks, but the army took the blocks and we had to accept brick of concrete. That is good as far but we have only the flue or chimney, and do not know if we can get a furnace.

About the 20th the sewers could not in, and it has been dead-yard until three days ago, about 14th of this month mind began blowing at a terrible gale speed and is still going.

Last Sunday we had services in the manse and must do so again Sunday. We have the new chimney up to the roof but can not do out until we have a few warm days. When that will be we can not predict maybe soon maybe not.

Mr. V. J. Johnson, our treasurer, and carpenter who put up the building, and I have the job so far. Others have promised a help but only one half day have given by Mr. Max Sherrod.

Cordially yours,
Walter

P.S. My Commission Oct!

Palmer, Alaska
December 28, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I have your letters of November 16th and December 10th which came in the last mail. Thank you for the check for $60.00 to make up the difference in salary, without it we would have plenty difficulty. That check and the November salary check reached me on December 26th.

We had a very nice Christmas considering the cold. The morning service on the 20th was a Christmas sermon, then on the morning of the 27th we had a worship service of Christmas anthems and carols by the choir. We enjoyed it very much eventhough we had to have the service in the living room of the manse. That makes four Sundays we have had the services in the manse, due to extreme cold preventing the completion of the new Chimney.

Regarding the chimney: we got it to the roof, but the continued sub zero weather prevented our completing the job due to the possibility of its freezing the morter. We have a little mild weather for the time, but since it is subject to snapping back to sub-zero, we are to finish the job this afternoon if nothing prevents.

I have had a couple more communications regarding my application for a Chaplaincy commission. One from the office of the Adjutant General, stating that my application had been recorded and filed due to there being no place available for immediate service. That communication was post marked November 10th. The second communication was from Deligate Diamond, in Washington, who stated that my application had been held up because of a limited service clause; but that steps were now being taken to place me in immediate service. His report to me was dated December 12th, and the A. D. C. Chaplain informed me that there had been radiogram communication from the Chief of Chaplains in Washington asking if there was a vacancy in Alaska. That inquiry was answered affirmatively, and it is the opinion of Chaplain McBride, that I should have some form of definite answer in the near future. With the army however, that may mean any time under a year.

We had a very pleasant Christmas, and spent the day out at the Experiment farm with four families of the church. We trust you had an enjoyable Christmas, and hope that your new year is filled with good things.

Thank you very much for the gem on prayer. We shall use the inclosed leaflets by distributing them through the membership of the church.

Very cordially yours,

Wilder

January 5, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. O. Gilbert Randall
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Friend Gilbert:

I received your wire yesterday stating that you had been commissioned a chaplain as of January 1. Congratulations! After these many weeks of waiting I suppose you do appreciate more than ever the fact that this appointment has come through.

You will make an excellent man for the army and will do a fine piece of work. I am sorry that you are leaving our work, but, of course, we have to take many things these days with a smile.

I do not know about filling the place in Palmer. With the shortage of men I am quite sure it is not going to be an easy task, but some way it will be done.

Let me hear from you from time to time.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

A. P. O. 948, %Postmaster
Seattle, Washington
January 13, 1943

Dr. Everett B. King, Secretary
Board of National Missions, Alaskan Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. King:

I regret that I have not been able to write earlier and tell you of my being called into the service. I was called on the 31st of December and ordered to duty on the following day. At the time I received the communication I notified you. I shall be happy to pay for the communication now, but at that time it was not possible.

I shall be unable to send a report of the last fifteen days of my work due to all names of places being forbidden by the wenson, but I can send in the report and you can fill in the places of labor. That is not a contridiction in the above sentance. I can send in the report blank with the work done, but void of anything but my name and endeavors.

Monia and Virginia Ruth are now on the Ranch out at Clnunch, and will likely spend the time there for the duration of the war. I am sincerely hoping that it is for a brief time for it is certainly difficult for all the families to be seperated and scattered by the present world conflict. I am only one of the married men in the armed forces today that hates to be separated from his family, and I guess that is true in every army in the world. We must make some sacrifices to win the victory, and I am willing to go to the mountain of victory since it will not come to us if we all stay on the farm, on the ranch, and in the particular job we are doing unless it contributes toward that victory.

I am writing to the Office of the General Assembly, giving my present address and affiliation with the armed forces as a Chaplain. I hope that I may be worthy the great trust our church has bestowed upon me by making me available to act as Chaplain in the army. I shall be happy to have a letter from you both as a Board Secretary and as a friend at any time you can spare the time. All soldiers like to get mail, and I shall be no exception to the rule.

I hope you find a supply for every parish of the National Missions work left vacant by young men answering the call to the Chaplaincy, especially the one I left. It was not in a very healthy condition as my reports have shown.

Remember us in your Prayers, and I shall not forget that you have also been to me much of what Paul was to Timothy.

Cordially yours,
Wilder

Chaplain Osro W. Randall, 1st. Lt.
260 Quartermasters Bn., A.P.O.948
%Postmaster, Seattle, Washington

January 22, 1943

Chaplain Osro W. Randall, 1st.Lt.
260 Quartermasters Bn.,A.P.O. 948
c/o Postmaster, Seattle, Washington

Dear Chaplain Randall:

I was very glad to receive your letter of January 13, and to know that all things had worked out according to the desires of your heart. I was especially interested in reading that Monia and Virginia Ruth had gone to Claunch to live. I was wondering what they would do and where they would live. I am sure it is a wise thing to have them back at Claunch, where they will be among friends. The separation, of course is a price to pay, but throughout this whole struggle and conflict all of us are being called on to pay prices in some way. The victory that we are hoping and praying for will be worth whatever it costs. I know that you will give an excellent account of yourself as a Chaplain, and that you will be a source of strength and comfort to many soldiers. I shall continue to remember you in my prayers.

So far I have not yet decided on a man for Palmer, but am hoping that something may materialize soon. I do not want this place to be vacant any longer than absolutely necessary.

Please let me hear from you from time to time.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

March 25, 1943

Chaplain O. W. Randall
260 Port Bn. A.P.O. 948
c/o P. M.
Seattle, Washington

Dear Chaplain Randall:

The mail today brought me your picture, and I am hastening to express to you my sincere appreciation for remembering me with your picture. I think it is an excellent likeness and it seems to me that the Army life agrees with you. At least, that is so if the picture tells the truth.

I am sure that you are finding these days to be busy ones, and no doubt there are more things for you to do in any single day than you could ever expect to do.

I do hope to make a trip to Alaska sometime soon, but so far the way is not open. I am still hopeful and surely if and when I do make the journey, I shall want an opportunity to see you and talk with you.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN
260th Port. Bn., APO 948
Seattle, Washington

April 15, 1943

Doctor Everett B. King
156 6th Ave. New York,
New York.

attached

Dear Doctor King

I received your letter of March 25th and was very glad to hear from you. I thought maybe you would like a picture of one of your Chaplains.

I note from your letter you are planning a trip to Alaska, but it is not likely you will get to see me. Armstrong, will be able to give you any information regarding the work in the Valley. He can also explain why you can not see me.

Through letters from New Mexico I see that Ralph and Roger are making plans for the Ranchman's Camp meeting. I would like very much to be with you if and when the meetings are held but my present employment is a little more aregent. You are not over estimating the situtation when you said no d ubt I found plenty to do. I am busy seven days a we k and feel that my effords are well spent.

I just received the Church bulletins from the Lancaster Church bearing the names of the service men from that Church. My name appeared in the list but I was a little disappointed that I was listed as Lieutenant instead of Chaplain. I know that is correct in Military language but I don't feel that I should be listed as such since I was a member of the staff of that Church.

I was wondering if it would be in order to ask the Lancaster Church to keep up my pension. I would not aks it personnaly, but by coming into the service as a Chaplain I do not think of severing my relationship with them. I would like your advice in regard to this matter.

I am always happy to get your letters.

Cordially yours,
Wilbur Kendall

P.S. I just Received your letter of January 5th — Thanks for the encouragement

April 28, 1943

Chaplain O. W. Randall
Office of the Chaplain
260th Port, Bn., APO 948
Seattle, Washington

Dear Wilber:

I was glad to get your letter dated April 15. Of course, I had to read between the lines, but I understand fully what you were trying to say. Rev. David H. Crawford from Cordova is here. He was elected Commissioner to the General Assembly. With what Crawford had to tell me, I could see more clearly what you were trying to tell me in your letter. With the information that he gave, I feel reasonably sure that I know more about you now.

I suggest that you write to Ralph Hall and make the suggestion that he contact the Lancaster Church relative to your pension. The chances are that the church would be glad to do this for you if the way was opened up.

Although you are doing a hard job, I think that it is a grand opportunity for you and that you will render a real service. I shall continue to remember you in my prayers and will look forward to letters from you if and when you have time to send them.

It is our plan to have both of the Cowboy Camp Meetings this summer. The rationing may have some effect on the attendance, but the cowboys want to go ahead with the meetings. I think nine beeves have already been donated for the meetings so we are pretty sure that we will have some steaks and coffee if nothing else. It will be fine to have a letter written to Ralph Hall so that this letter from you could be read at the Camp Meeting.

Cordially yours,

H-E-A-D-Q-U-A-R-T-E-R-S
Office of the Chaplain
APO 982, Seattle, Wn.

June 8, 1943

Doctor Everett B. King
156 - 5th Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor King:

Your welcomed letter of April 18th finally caught up with me June 5th. Since I wrote to you last, I have had a change of station, and am now Post Chaplain, at APO 982. I was happy to hear that Crawford was able to attend General Assembly. I also heard from Champlin, and he told me of Crawford's assignment to assist Bingle up there.

It is good to know that the Camp Meetings are to be held in New Mexico this summer. I hope that you will be able to attend them for I know that it is a rich experience, to both you, and those attending the meetings.

Although the Army feeds us well, I would like to get in on some of those beeves, and other good chuck, that will be dished out there.

I shall comply with your suggestion regarding a letter to Ralph Hall, to be read at the Camp Meeting. Also I would like to delegate you to personally convey my regards to those with whom we were closely associated at the meeting, especially the Evan's boys, Tig Hutchinson, Pat Murphy, and the Bentons.

My prayers are with you in your very difficult job at this time.

Cordially yours,

Osro W. Randall

OSRO W. RANDALL
Post Chaplain.

June 22, 1943

Rev. O. Wilber Randall
Post Chaplain
Office of the Chaplain
APO 982
Seattle, Washington

Dear Randall:

I find it rather difficult to keep up with you since you are changed so often. I have used my imagination, and am trying to relocate you. From information that I picked up from various sources, I had you pretty well located, but now I am more or less at a loss as to where you might be stationed.

There is a strong possibility that I will be able to make my trip to Alaska about the middle of September. If that is done, I am hopeful that army transportation will enable me to visit some of the outposts. Perhaps you could be of some assistance to me in prevailing upon the powers that be to grant me that courtesy.

I shall think about you at the Camp Meeting, and I will try to eat a double portion of the good barbecue as a tribute to you. Of course, you might appreciate it more if you were there and could place your teeth in one of the juicy barbecued ribs, or perhaps you would prefer one of the juicy steaks.

I shall be glad to take your personal greetings to those that you name in your letter. I am sure that the fellows will be asking for you.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

H-E-A-D-Q-U-A-R-T-E-R-S
Office of the Chaplain
APO 982, Seattle, Wn.

21 July 1943

Doctor Everett B. King
156 - 5th Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor King:

Received your welcomed letter of June 22nd and was happy to know that you will be at the camp meetings this summer. I wish I could be with you, and especially present at some of those barbeque feasts, though in actual reality I would enjoy the spiritual feasts a great deal more.

You mentioned the probability of your visiting this territory in September, but it is not likely that you will be able to visit many of the outposts due to difficulty in getting transportation. It will be possible however for you to visit most of the army posts accessible to Bingle and Crawford. I will inquire of our Command Chaplain, who is in charge of all the Chaplains in this territory, to see if there is a possibility of your visiting some of the more distant outposts while in the territory. I do not know if it would be possible for him to arrange visits to the outposts.

I would enjoy seeing you while in the territory, but that too is improbable. May I encourage you t make every possible effort to visit Miss Bannon's former post because such a visit would be of exceeding value to the people in those churches.

While here, give my regards to the other members of this Presbytery.

Cordially yours,

Osro W. Randall

OSRO W. RANDALL
Post Chaplain

OWR/mrc

August 4, 1943

Rev. O. Wilber Randall
Post Chaplain
APO 982
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Randall:

Thank you for your letter of July 21. It came to my office today. That is pretty good time. I suppose the letter caught wings and flew for quite a long distance, perhaps all the way.

Your letter has cleared some of the question that I had in my mind about you and your location. I believe I have you located now in my mind.

It was not possible for me to attend either of the cowboy camp meetings. Miss Wolf, in the office, was forced to return to the hospital, and one of the girls was on her vacation, so I had to cancel my engagements in New Mexico and fly back to New York. The reports that I have received from the camp meetings, though, indicate that the two meetings were the finest yet. The one at Montoza was unusually good. The crowds were excellent, the preaching was fine, and there was manifested a wonderful spirit. I am sure that the group missed you and I know that you missed the group.

Of course, I cannot give any definite information about my plans for the visitation program in Alaska, but if there is any possible way, I expect to visit St. Lawrence Island. I have received several letters from different individuals stationed on the Island and feel as you do that it would be an inspiration to me, as well as perhaps a help to the church, to visit there.

I guess you know by this time that David Crawford has left Cordova and is now working with Bert Bingle in the construction camps. Bert Bingle has been designated by our War-Time Service Commission as the chief chaplain for construction camps in Alaska. Crawford is serving as an assistant to Bingle. I was fortunate in securing Rev. and Mrs. Wotring to go to Cordova, so that there has not been any lapse of time in the service for that church.

Rev. and Mrs. Alfsen will go to Palmer the first of September. He graduates from Princeton the middle of August and will be ordained and leave immediately. I think they will be fine for the work there.

Let me hear from you when you have an opportunity to write and remember that I continually carry you to the throne of grace in prayer.

Cordially yours,

EBK:is

December 8,

December 5, 1944

Chaplain Randall, formerly missionary at Palmer, Alaska, had a short leave and stopped in at the office to see Mr. Jackman. He plans to go to the European theatre of war and said when he returns he might like a place in Alaska again.

He asked that we mention his being here when writing to The Rev. Mr. Alfsen.

FK

He was very sorry he missed seeing Mr. Jackman when he visited Alaska last spring.